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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief To Visit Deportees

NC3001144293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that in the next few days he will visit the Palestinian deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon.

During a news conference at noon today at Arab League Headquarters, he said he held contacts with the Lebanese Government on visiting the region in the next few days as an expression of the League's great concern over this issue, which is a top priority.

He expressed appreciation and support for the sound Lebanese position, which he praised as wise and courageous.

He said the deportees now live in an occupied Lebanese region, and the visit reflects full solidarity with the Lebanese decision and with Palestine.

He regretted the Israeli High Court's decision to uphold the Israeli Government's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians, especially since the Israeli court based its ruling on the emergency laws inherited from the British mandate instead of applying the international resolutions, notably the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Israeli Government bears the "political responsibility" for deporting the Palestinians and for the measures which would result. He called for implementing Security Council Resolution 799 in full, adding that the Security Council must implement this resolution and prove by doing so that it does not maintain a double standard.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid praised the deportees' unity and determination, saying that this position is a credit to them, to the Palestinian people, and to the Arab nation despite the difficult conditions under which they live.

During his news conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also dealt with the Arab League's role and its efforts to solve the deportees issue since it began. He noted in this regard the message he has sent to the UN secretary general and the president of the UN Security Council, as well as the resolution adopted in this regard by the Arab League Council at its extraordinary session in January.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during his visit to Lebanon he will hold talks with officials there regarding the Palestinian deportees and the bold Lebanese position on this issue.

New Libyan Envoy: Solution to Crisis 'Possible'

NC3101121193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received former Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari today. Al-Bishari said after the meeting that he presented his credentials to Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid as Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, succeeding Ambassador 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki.

He said he conveyed to the Arab League chief the greetings of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. Despite the difficulties the Arab League is facing, he said, it plays a major role in resolving Arab differences.

Al-Bishari said he and 'Abd-al-Majid discussed some Arab and international issues, noting that the Arab League, the seven-way Arab committee [on Libya's crisis with the West], and the secretary general will hold contacts in the next weeks to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis.

He thanked the secretary general's efforts and said that a solution to the Libyan-Western problem is possible now that there is a new U.S. Administration.

GCC Condemns Deportations, Urges UN Action

JN3101163193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] General Secretariat has condemned the Israeli Government's arbitrary deportation of the Palestinian people from the occupied territories. The General Secretariat said the deportations are a violation of human rights, an infringement on international charters and the Fourth Geneva Convention, and an aggression on the humanity of those people who have long been suffering from the occupation authorities' policy of killing, oppression, detention, and deportation.

In a statement today on the developments of the Palestinian deportees' issue, Shaykh Sayf Bin-Hashil al-Maskari, the GCC's assistant secretary general for political affairs, called for an immediate, safe return of all deportees to their homeland in accordance with Security Council Resolution 799. In this regard, he pointed to the statement issued by the GCC leaders in their recent meeting in Abu Dhabi—a statement which vehemently condemned the arbitrary Israeli deportation measures and called on the Security Council to take whatever means necessary to force the Israeli occupation authorities to abide by the international charters and secure the repatriation of the deportees.

Al-Maskari called for applying the Chapter 7 of the UN Charter and for imposing gradual sanctions on Israel so that it submits to the resolutions of international legitimacy, abides by the international charters, and stops all that harms the peace efforts and exposes the region to tensions undermining its stability and world security. He added that it is unreasonable for the Security Council to zealously and firmly implement its resolutions against Iraq and Libya at a time when it is reluctant to impose sanctions on Israel. Al-Maskari asserted that it is high time to put an end to the Israeli disdain for international resolutions and for Palestinian rights in the occupied territories. He added that it is time to convince the Israeli leaders that there is no place for their arrogant, outlaw policies in today's world and under the post-cold war circumstances, and that there is no escape from a just, comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Within this context, al-Maskari welcomed the recommendation that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali submitted to the Security Council for taking all necessary measures in order to force Israel to implement Resolution 799. He said: We look forward to a firm stand by all Security Council member states—a stand that will affirm to everyone that the international community deals with all parties according to one standard and that there is no room for double standards. We are confident that all Security Council member states will stand alongside the international will, international law, and justice, and will support the adoption of measures that will put an end to these illegal practices and secure the return of the deportees and the termination of their suffering.

Al-Maskari added: We are also confident that any of the Security Council's permanent member states will not veto the imposition of sanctions on Israel as doing so will undermine the prestige of international legitimacy. There are new world circumstances and new concepts, and everyone should be aware of this fact and adhere to it.

Statement Said 'Misinterpreted'

JN0102095993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Feb (WAKH)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] General Secretariat has announced that the statement made by Sayf Bin-Hashil al-Maskari, the GCC's assistant secretary general for political affairs, on the Palestinian deportees was misinterpreted by the media.

An announcement issued by the General Secretariat today said that the objective of al-Maskari's statement was not to make a comparison between the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the Palestinian deportees issue.

The announcement stressed that the statement aimed at urging the UN Security Council and the international community to take executive steps to ensure the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland.

In his statement, al-Maskari said that it is unreasonable for the Security Council to zealously and firmly implement its resolutions against Iraq and Libya at a time when it is reluctant to impose phased sanctions on Israel.

Gulf States Seek To Halt Tension With Iraq

PM2801155393 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Jan 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by Wafa' 'Amr: "Gulf States Considering Reconciliation With Baghdad; Restrictions on Iraqi Imports Via al-'Aqabah Eased"]

[Excerpt] Amman—Arab and Western diplomatic sources in the Jordanian capital Amman have confirmed that the Gulf states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have actually begun considering freezing their differences with Iraq and gradually dealing with it now that the causes which led to the war with it have receded, with Kuwait liberated and the Iraqi military threat to its neighbors also receding. Add to that the emergence of Iran as a major regional power whose ambitions in Bahrain and other islands have not diminished.

The sources say that the Saudi Kingdom has told its neighbors, some European capitals, and Washington that it wishes to freeze the tension with Iraq and open a dialogue with the Baghdad government. The same sources add that, despite Turkey's recent moves in the Gulf, believed to be aimed at reassuring its leaders and emphasizing Turkey's ability to take Iraq's place in confronting Iran, the Gulf states still believe that there is no alternative to a united and strong Iraq in the face of Iran's growing power.

The sources note that the Gulf states were not enthusiastic about the recent U.S. raid on Iraq and that only Kuwait supported it, while Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain condemned it.

They also note Kuwait's announcement about sending parliamentary delegations to Sudan and Yemen for the first time since the war, despite the fact that it had repeatedly accused them of supporting Iraq.

The sources also say that Saudi Arabia may have asked Kuwait to tone down its hostility to the Arab states in the opposite camp and to be ready to enter a new phase of Arab accord.

According to a Western source, Western circles are affirming that the UN economic blockade of Iraq will be gradually eased at the beginning of next month and then lifted by the end of this coming summer, although the military blockade of Iraqi will continue to be firmly maintained.

It has recently been noted that the naval blockade is beginning to be gradually scaled down and that U.S. and British warships are allowing cargo ships carrying goods for the Iraqi market via al-'Aqabah to proceed to the port without any severe restrictions. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Meets Israeli MP, To Meet al-Qadhdhafi

NC2901192193 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Tunis, Jan 29 (AFP) - PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat met here Friday [29 January] with Israeli Labour MP Yael Dayan in the first such public encounter with an Israeli legislator after Israel lifted a ban on contacts with his organization.

The Palestine Liberation Organization leader received the daughter of the late Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and a member of the ruling Labour Party but the media were barred from covering the event nine days after Israel's parliament rescinded a 1968 "anti-terrorist" law preventing Israelis from meeting with PLO members.

Two days after the law was scrapped, Israeli peace activist Abie Natan met here with 'Arafat. His previous meetings with 'Arafat had landed him in jail.

Dayan, who arrived here Thursday, told the French network Radio France Internationale that her visit to PLO Headquarters in Tunis was private and carried out in the name of Israel's "peace camp."

"Peace is possible, peace is necessary, peace is obligatory," she insisted. She said Israelis must negotiate with the Palestinian leadership.

Talks between Israel and Arab negotiators at the Middle East peace talks, including Palestinians, have been stalled since Israeli authorities expelled more than 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon on December 17.

'Arafat was also to meet Friday with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, PLO sources said.

They said 'Arafat had met in Tripoli Thursday with al-Qadhdhafi's second in command, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, to discuss the air and military embargo imposed on Libya since April by the UN Security Council as well as the need to bolster Arab unity, the sources said.

PLO Radio Reports Meeting

LD3001191693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received Mrs. Yael Dayan, member of the Israeli Knesset Labor Party bloc. Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of Fatah; and Brother Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the steering committee at the peace talks were also present at the meeting. After the meeting Mrs. Dayan said: I came here to my enemy because I wanted to build up trust. I am convinced that Mr. 'Arafat really wants peace. I hope that peace will be achieved as it is in the interest of our two peoples.

The talks focused upon the need to bolster the peace process and remove all obstacles before it, in the forefront of which is the problem of the Palestinian deportees and their return. Brother President Abu-'Ammar invited Mrs. Dayan to lunch at his office in Tunis. It should be recalled that Mrs. Dayan arrived in Tunis on Thursday [28 January] evening. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Reiterates Nonparticipation in Talks

NC3001131293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tunis, 30 Jan (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, a member of the Steering Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has stressed that the ninth round of talks cannot be held without a practical solution to the problem of the Palestinian deportees.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, al-Husayni said the Israeli High Court's decision to uphold the Israeli Government's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians came as a great shock to him.

He said it is impossible to separate the deportees from participation in the peace talks. No Arab delegations, he added, should attend this round unless the problem is totally solved.

Al-Husayni said the Israeli court's ruling places additional obstacles in the way of the peace process and leads it up a blind alley.

He said he hopes international efforts will succeed in forcing Israel to rescind its decision and that the Rabin government will respond to efforts by many international sides to return the deportees to their homeland.

Al-Husayni denied any differences within the negotiating Palestinian delegation over a link between the deportees issue and the participation in the upcoming round of talks. He said all are in agreement that the talks will not be attended unless the deportees are allowed to return to their homeland.

Al-Husayni arrived in Tunis Thursday [28 January] and attended last night's meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Knesset member Yael Dayan.

Al-Husayni Comments on 'Arafat-Dayan Talks

JN3001213293 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Israeli Member of Parliament Yael Dayan held talks in Tunis yesterday with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and said she believed the Palestinian leader wants to make peace with Israel. [passage omitted]

The Israeli Knesset member also met in Tunis with senior PLO officials, including Nabil Sha'th and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and with the Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni who arrived in Amman from Tunis today.

Al-Husayni said Yael Dayan came to Tunis with a message of peace.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] And she came there with a message that she is holding and she announced about it for pushing the peace process forward to condemn the deportee decision and to ask common work from those forces who are for the peace to work together to push the peace process forward. [end recording]

Al-Husayni said Israel's refusal to allow the deportees to return home means the Israeli prime minister is not interested in peace.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] As I told you that the credibility of the UN, the credibility of the peace process, the credibility of this government of Rabin is under examination.

First, if Rabin will not change his position, so it means that he is not interested in the peace process and in changing the situation. If the United States with the United Nations will not go ahead with a real steps to force Israel to respect the Security Council Resolution 799, it means that the UN is still going on double standards. And if the United States will not put its efforts and its power to push forward the Israelis to accept and respect the 799 resolution, it means also that the United States, the main power leading the peace process, is not any more capable for that. [end recording]

Palestinians Demand Implementation of Resolution 799

TA2901115493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpts] UN officials at the Armon Hanetziv headquarters in Jerusalem refused to meet this morning with a delegation of Palestinians who were demanding UN action to bring back the deportees. As Mark Weiss reports, there was some scuffling but no arrests.

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Five Palestinians led by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad and Sari Nusaybah travelled from East Jerusalem to the United Nations headquarters in Armon Hanetziv to hand over a letter to UN officials urging action on behalf of the deportees. The five were accompanied by relatives of the deportees. Here is Sari Nusaybah.

[Nusaybah] We have come here to show our protest and to give a message that will be conveyed to the secretary general of the United Nations—basically, to ask the United Nations to employ the same standards everywhere throughout the world. Israel has refused to recognize the United Nations' resolutions, both on the Security Council level and on the General Assembly level, and we think that the United Nations has to act, its credibility is now before the test, and the Palestinian people are awaiting a very clear answer from the United Nations: Is it an agency that is there to uphold international law or is it an agency that is weak before the strong?

[Weiss] UN officials agreed to accept the letter but refused to meet with the delegation. The exchange at the entrance to the UN headquarters was cordial but unproductive. [passage omitted]

After being refused permission to meet with UN officials, the Palestinians decided to return home without handing in their letter. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad warned that as far as the Palestinians are concerned, the time for UN action has arrived.

[Abu-Zayyad] What we need is action from the United Nations and not condemnation. We have heard many condemnations in the past and they did not help, so we need to see action from the United Nations. We need to see Resolution 799 implemented. [end recording]

PLO Executive Committee Statement on Deportees

LD3001194493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has issued a statement, of which the following is the text:

The PLO Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of brother President Yasir 'Arafat, held an emergency meeting on 29 January to discuss the latest developments concerning the brother deportees and examine the next steps to be taken by the Palestinian leadership to secure their return to the homeland. The PLO Executive Committee reviewed the contacts and endeavors made by brother President Yasir 'Arafat, by PLO Executive Committee members, and by other Palestinian delegations and bodies at national, Arab, and international levels to follow up this national issue. The PLO Executive Committee asserted the need to continue the efforts which are being exerted at the United Nations and the UN Security Council to pass a new resolution which would force Israel, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, to comply with and immediately implement UN Security Council Resolution 799.

The Executive Committee expressed the view that the Security Council's credibility, and that of the parties sponsoring the peace process, in particular the U.S. Administration, is now facing a real test where any overlooking of the Israeli stance which renounces the international resolutions demonstrates a policy of double standards—one standard for Israel, which is to Israel's benefit, and the other for the Arabs and the Palestinians, which is against them.

The Executive Committee denounced the Israeli High Court's decision, stating that the attempt to transform the deportees' issue into a legal one is nothing but a new Israeli maneuver to remove the political side of it, and dissociate itself from the rulings of the Fourth Geneva Convention and all the Security Council's resolutions. The Executive Committee emphasized that no Israeli legal quarter has the right to attack international legitimacy, or contradict the rulings of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Security Council resolutions, which stipulated the need to provide protection to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation for the stance and report of UN Secretary General Butrus

Butrus-Ghali, both for his emphasis on the need to implement Security Council Resolution 799 in connection with the deportees' return, and for his elucidation, which is supported by the facts, of Israel's refusal to abide by this resolution, and previous similar resolutions which preceded it, and the necessity to adopt one standard in the proceedings of the Security Council, and respect its resolutions.

In this context, the PLO stresses the importance of securing international supervision, to which the UN secretary general made reference in his report, of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 681, as a step toward the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people against the continuing process of terrorism and oppression to which it is being exposed.

At the meeting, the Executive Committee pointed to the need for the international community to adopt speedy measures to confront the campaigns of killing to which the sons and children of the Palestinian people are being subjected in the occupied homeland. Since the banishment, 30 Palestinians have been martyred, more than half of whom were children not more than 14 years old.

The PLO holds Rabin's government responsible for the killing of unarmed children and civilians, and calls for effective measures at the level of the Security Council to secure protection for our people and a halt to the bloodbath to which it is being subjected.

The Executive Committee stressed that Rabin's government, through its terrorist and oppressive policy, is responsible for the current impasse in the talks. The cancelling of the banishment decisions and other terrorist measures and respect for the rules of the peace process will secure the resumption of the negotiations.

In this connection, the PLO calls on the new U.S. Administration to carry out its responsibility as an essential sponsor of the peace process alongside Russia by deploying effective efforts to remove the obstacles brought about by Israel on the path of this process.

The Executive Committee stressed its gratitude for the stances of sisterly Arab states and the Arab League secretary general, especially in light of the results of the five-member meeting, the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo, and also the positions of the Islamic group as emphasized by the Dakar summit declaration; and the efforts of the Nonaligned Movement states, African states, and all friendly forces in Europe and China to support what is right and just, and confront Israel's violation of international legality.

The Executive Committee calls for the further development and consolidation of the Arab position to protect Arab interests and rights, in order that we may realize our national and pan-Arab goals regarding recovering occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, foremost among which is holy Jerusalem.

The committee expressed its gratitude for the steadfastness of the brother deportees and their determination to wrest their firm rights to return to their homeland. The committee also hailed the clear national and mass role played inside and outside our occupied land in support of the cause of the deportees, and the resolve to challenge all forms of Israeli terrorism.

The Executive Committee decided to keep all its meetings open to follow up all subsequent developments, and to continue implementing its resolutions during this serious and fateful period.

'Ashrawi Comments on Anti-Israel Draft Resolution

NC3001081293 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Ashrawi: The Arab group at the United Nations has drafted a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel for its refusal to implement Resolution 799 on the deportees. What is the Palestinian position on this draft?

['Ashrawi] The draft is based on a Palestinian proposal presented to the Arab group for examination, modification, and action. After introducing some modifications, the group approved and adopted the proposal. We are also trying to get the nonaligned countries to adopt the draft, which we believe is applicable. The draft, based on Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, forces Israel, for the first time ever, to implement Security Council resolutions. If Israel fails to implement the resolutions, economic sanctions will be initiated. The draft also calls for a UN mission to monitor Israel's practices in the occupied territories.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Observers are unanimous that Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians will damage the peace process. At the same time, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warns the Security Council against adopting anti-Israel resolutions, saying that it would frustrate chances for peace in the Middle East. How can Rabin say this?

['Ashrawi] I believe Israel is employing political extortion, as it has done throughout the negotiations. If it does not like any resolution or deems it to be against its interests, it threatens to abandon the political process. We believe that Israel must yield to international law, not subject international law to its will and institutions. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] If Israel continues its intransigence and continues to reject the deportees' return, will you continue your refusal to resume the peace talks?

['Ashrawi] We do not view the peace talks as an ongoing process. We have frankly said that Israel has dealt a fatal blow to the peace process. The process needs to be revived and reactivated, effective steps must be taken. We are not participating in a negotiating process now; Israel managed to stop it completely. If the obstacles that caused this are removed, then we, of course, will participate in the negotiations. If Israel maintains its stand on the latest obstacle, the mass expulsion of the Palestinians, the peace process will have no credibility. A country that violates international law without punishment and rejects Security Council resolutions cannot be trusted to implement Security Council Resolution 242 or to abide by any agreements that may result from the talks. We are awaiting practical steps, especially the questioning of Israel's position, so that some credibility can be restored to the peace process.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] Thank you.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Court Ruling, Possible U.S. Veto

NC2901154693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Paris, 29 Jan (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the organization's Information Department, has announced that the Israeli High Court of Justice's ruling over the deportation of Palestinians is a real farce. He explained that on the one hand, Israel so far refuses to recognize the Palestinian territories as occupied or to deal with them as such, and on the other hand, it resorts to the laws used by the former British occupation authorities to cover up its acts of repression and mass expulsions.

In an interview with the Paris-based L'Orient radio station today, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the half-century-old British laws, issued prior to the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1946 which organizes the relationship of occupier and occupied, are outdated laws that Britain itself now denounces. He noted that despite this the Israeli occupation is attempting to use them to justify and legitimize its oppression.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Israeli High Court's decision does not concern or interest us. The only court we recognize is the UN Security Council, UN resolutions, the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Palestinian official added that he cannot imagine the United States, particularly under the new administration, using the veto against a Security Council resolution on this issue, because to do so would be a very serious matter.

Explaining that the Security Council bears immense international responsibilities and adopts measures and sanctions against several countries when they commit violations, even limited ones, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that breaking this rule and using the veto will threaten the Security Council's credibility and indeed the entire peace process.

He stressed that if the UN Security Council cannot implement its Resolution 799, which provides for the return of the deportees, how can one be sure that the Council or other concerned international parties can implement Resolution 242 and other resolutions pertaining to resolving the Middle East conflict?

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said: The United States using its veto would destroy the peace process. We are saying clearly and frankly that this is a real test of the credibility of the international role not only toward the deportees' issue, but toward the overall political process in the region.

In reply to a question on the intifadah, he said: The escalation of the intifadah is not ruled out. Negotiations do not conflict with the escalation of the intifadah. Resistance in all its forms will continue as long as there is occupation and until this occupation ends. Negotiations for us were one of the methods of the struggle.

Asked to what extent he believes Israel will continue with this intransigence, particularly as there is strong international pressure against it, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: This is, in fact, the same policy as that of Shamir. Rabin is trying to push matters towards the edge of the abyss and also is attempting to impose new rules which he wants to implement if he succeeds in imposing the same policy; that is, imposing the fait accompli. He wants to make the Israeli stand and decision the ones according to which everyone will abide. It is for this reason that the issue is a real test and challenge for all the international efforts, both in the Security Council and in the peace conference.

'Abd-Rabbuh said: The Israeli court's ruling is first a political decision and has no legal justification or cover. This is why we are treating it as a political decision. We believe that the Security Council has to take measures in the coming few days in light of the UN secretary general's report.

He noted that the draft resolution presented by the Palestinian delegation at the United Nations calls for initial and not final measures as a warning to Israel to respect and implement Resolution 799. He added: If it does not do so by 9 February, the Security Council then must come back and take additional measures.

'Abd-Rabbuh said: This is the rule followed with a number of countries that have violated Security Council resolutions. Now we will see whether there is one or two standards when the matter concerns the rights of Third World countries, and specifically Arab peoples.

'Abd-Rabbuh Interview on Deportees, Peace Process

NC3001193893 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by announcer Antione 'Awn in Tunis on 30 January]

[Text] ['Awn] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today again expressed his belief that he does not expect the Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel because of the deportees issue. Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal stressed that Washington will not approve of sanctions. To find out the PLO leadership's stand on the issue, we telephoned PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh earlier this evening:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh] In fact, the PLO provided enough time for implementing Security Council Resolution 799. The Arab group and the nonaligned countries currently are discussing a draft resolution to submit to the Security Council to take measures in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which outlines sanctions to force Israel to implement Resolution 799 providing for the immediate return of the deportees to their homes.

['Awn] If the United States uses the veto at the Security Council to block sanctions against Israel, will the PLO's stand on the peace negotiations remain the same?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The United States and the parties sponsoring the peace talks are aware of the Palestinian and Arab position on this issue. The five-member meeting of the Arab confrontation states emphasized that the return of the deportees is the guarantee for resuming the peace talks. At the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo two weeks ago, there was ample explanation that the return of the deportees could secure the success and resumption of the peace talks. Before this issue is resolved, it is impossible to talk of resuming this process. Therefore, the use of a veto or any other measure to obstruct implementing the Security Council resolution would be tantamount to a deadly blow to the peace process. We stressed this in a statement released today.

['Awn] You spoke of the Arab position. The Arab League secretary general has decided to visit the deportees camp. Do you believe that the PLO has succeeded in mobilizing Arab circles sufficiently regarding this issue?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Certainly; therefore, the Arab foreign ministers meeting demonstrated complete understanding of the need for the Arab group to act so that the Security Council may adopt a stand that will ensure implementation of international law. The Arab group rejects the double-standard policy and dealing with Arab and Palestinian rights in the way they previously were. I believe that this is a unanimous Arab stand. Anyway, the Arab foreign ministers meeting remains open and the PLO can call for the Arab foreign ministers to meet should any party obstruct the Security Council's efforts or take measures. I want to add that the next two days will be decisive regarding the fate of the peace process in its entirety. Either measures will be taken to resolve the deportees issue, or the peace process will be doomed—in which case the confrontation will become direct, as will all other eventualities in the region and in the Palestinian occupied territories. [end recording]

U.S. "Lead" in Sanctions on Israel Called For

TA3001060293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] In Los Angeles, the head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, urged the United States to take a lead in imposing sanctions on Israel. He said it had worked when President Eisenhower did so in 1956, forcing Israel to leave Gaza after the Sinai Campaign.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said again that the peace talks could not resume until all the deportees had been repatriated. He also said that when the talks start again, the United States should assume responsibility of arbitrator.

Islamic Jihad Claims Killing of Israeli Soldiers

JN3001131693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization-al-Aqsa Battalions, issued a statement in Amman claiming that it killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three others in an attack on a patrol in a settlement near Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. The organization's men returned safely to base.

Palestinian sources had earlier said that five Palestinians were injured in Khan Yunus and 13 others in Jabalyah town and camp, and that an exchange of fire occurred at dawn today between pursued Palestinians and Israeli soldiers. Following the clash, Israeli forces imposed a curfew on the Jabalyah camp.

Islamic Jihad Denies Responsibility

JN3101090993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Jan 93 pp 1, 20

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Abu-'Abdallah Fayiz, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement, has stressed that the Movement has no connection with the Khan Yunus operation, and pointed out that this operation was launched by the Hamas Movement.

The Movement's leader warned against the attempts aimed at driving a wedge between Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions through issuing false statements claiming responsibility for operations that were launched by Hamas, not by the Islamic Jihad Movement.

News agencies had reported statements received by fax declaring the Islamic Jihad Movement's responsibility for the Khan Yunus operation.

A statement issued by the al-Aqsa Battalions, the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine, obtained by AL-DUSTUR stressed that the Islamic Jihad Movement has no connection with the statement claiming responsibility for the Khan Yunus operation.

The al-Aqsa Battalions, however, stressed its responsibility for the operation led by martyr 'Umar Khamis Yusuf al-Ghulah, which resulted in the death of an Israeli soldier and the injury of two others in Shaykh 'Ajlayn in Gaza.

The statement noted that Shaykh Ibrahim Sirbil had been suspended and isolated from the organizational leadership, and that all organizational and administrative powers were withdrawn from Sirbil on the date of issuing the statement of the investigation committee, headed by the Movement leader Fayiz Abu-'Abdallah on 19 May 1992.

Killings Prove Hamas 'Not Scared'

NC3101220193 Paris AFP in English 2111 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, Jan 31 (AFP) - The weekend killing of two Israeli soldiers in the occupied Gaza Strip proves that the expulsion of some 400 Palestinians has not undermined the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, its representative in Amman said Sunday [31 January].

Muhammad Nazzal told AFP the attack Saturday had been conducted by two members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. It showed that members of the group were not scared by security operations in the occupied territories, he said.

Israeli troops carried out house-to-house searches in a Gaza Strip refugee camp overnight arresting some 50 suspects after the killing of two soldiers, Palestinian sources said Sunday.

Large numbers of soldiers were deployed in Khan Yunus town and refugee camp which were put under curfew following Saturday's ambush by Palestinian fighters at the nearby Israeli settlement of Ganey Tal, the sources said.

"The last operation in Khan Yunus has proven, beyond any doubt, that the expulsion did not affect Hamas' structural composure," Nazzal said.

The operation is part of "Hamas' military strategy against the occupation," and not only as a protest against the Israeli Supreme Court for upholding Thursday the deportation of some 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon.

Israel deported the Palestinians, whom it accused of being members of Hamas and of a second group Islamic Jihad, on December 17 after a series of attacks on Israeli soldiers.

U.S. Blamed for Israel's Position on Deportees

NC3001124293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh attributes Israel's continued intransigence and noncompliance with Security Council Resolution 799, as manifest in the recent Israeli High Court's ruling, to the United States, which always and under all circumstances supports Israel regardless of its violation of international law and global legitimacy.

Subayh told MENA in an exclusive statement that the United States opposes any Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its failure to return the deportees.

The United States, he noted, began implementing its decision to give Israel $10 billion to absorb Jewish immigrants despite Israel's violation of all international conventions and human rights.

He called on the U.S. Administration to apply its advocacy of human rights to the Palestinian people, especially the deportees, and to force Israel to implement Resolution 799. If this is not done, he said, the U.S. position will be seen as supporting the Israeli measures, which always violate Palestinian human rights.

Negotiator on Postponement of Cairo Meeting

JN0102105993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Feb 93 p 13

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] A Palestinian negotiator has announced that a meeting scheduled to be held in Cairo between Palestinian and Israeli officials has been postponed indefinitely.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, vice chairman of the Strategic Committee for Bilateral Negotiations, expressed satisfaction with this postponement, affirming that holding such a meeting at this time in particular—when Israel insists on its position toward the deportees—does not serve the sound Palestinian decision to suspend the negotiations until the question of the deportees is resolved.

He emphasized adherence to the unanimous Palestinian position that there will be no going back to the negotiating table until the question of the deportees is resolved by implementing Security Council Resolution 799. [passage omitted]

He added that in line with the declared Palestinian position, it has been decided to suspend participation in the meetings of the multilateral armament committee, scheduled to be held in Washington on 8 February. [passage omitted]

U.S. Urged To 'Force' Israel on Deportees

NC3001170393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1536 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA)—Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah has expressed his belief that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has placed the United States in an impasse by refusing to implement Security Council Resolution 799 on returning the deportees to their homes.

In a statement to MENA, he said that by wasting time regarding the deportees issue, Israel is not helping the peace process. He noted that by adopting this stand on the deportees, Rabin wants to torpedo the peace efforts in the Middle East and violates the most basic human rights and international law.

Al-Qidrah expressed his hope that the United States will adopt a stand forcing Israel to respect the UN resolutions now that the cold war is over and the United States is seeking to establish a new world order based on respect for human rights.

* Palestinians May Send Delegation to U.S.

93P40099A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qalibi]

[Excerpt] Tunis—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the Palestinian leadership is in a difficult predicament with the issue of the Palestinian deportees in southern Lebanon. This is because Israel is sticking to its rigid position and its refusal to submit to UN Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of all deportees. Therefore, the Palestinian leadership is thinking about sending a delegation to Washington in an attempt to create a way to salvage the negotiations. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh Said To Start New Party in Territories

TA2901185593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Democratic Front, led by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, is planning to set up a political party in the territories that would operate openly and whose main office will be in Ramallah. These sources said that the party will operate under the name of The Palestinian Democratic Alliance [al-ittihad al-dimuqrati al-filastini] and that this step came in view of the fact that since the Madrid Conference it has become possible to engage in open political activity in the territories.

Egypt

Mediation With Sudan Over Hala'ib Said Frozen

NC2901164593 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report]

[Text] Egypt has frozen all mediation attempts with Sudan in protest of Sudanese military regime's continued acts to escalate the crisis with Egypt.

Knowledgeable diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that Egypt has told Syria and Libya that it totally rejects Sudan's conditions on the third round of the Joint Egyptian-Sudanese Committee, which is scheduled to discuss Hala'ib. The sources added that Sudan said the meeting is contingent on the withdrawal of Egyptian military and civilian personnel from the Hala'ib region.

According to the same sources, Khartoum claimed that the withdrawal of the Egyptian forces and the return of the situation to the pre-9 December status would create a suitable atmosphere for the committee's work. Cairo, however, insisted on exercising its full sovereignty over all Egyptian areas, including Hala'ib.

Egypt halted its media campaign against Sudan in response to requests by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Egypt has expressed its readiness to hold the committee's meeting in Khartoum without any conditions.

It is worth mentioning that Syria failed to convince Sudan to withdraw its memoranda to the Security Council against Egypt.

Assembly Urges 'Cordial' Settlement With Sudan

NC2901190693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1729 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—The People's Assembly has asserted that relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are too strong and solid to be shaken by any maneuvers; that the Sudanese people will continue to be in Egypt's mind and heart as a symbol for our eternal and distinctive historic relations; and that what God has brought together, no man can set asunder.

The Assembly emphasized the need to avoid anything that could harm these relations or allow foreign parties to spoil them.

In a report prepared by the committee in charge of studying the government policy statement, the Assembly reiterated its eagerness to settle any differences that might arise between the two peoples in a cordial and fraternal manner that reflects the distinctiveness of the deep-rooted relations linking the two peoples. This settlement should be within the framework of legitimacy, full commitment to the provisions and principles of international law, as well as the charters and agreements accepted by both sides.

Based on the principles which bring the two peoples together, the Assembly stressed that the issue of Egyptian "Hala'ib" should be settled in a cordial manner that precludes an escalation of differences. It also stressed the need to contain the dispute between the two countries, taking into consideration the fraternal ties linking the Sudanese and Egyptian people.

The Assembly called on the Sudanese Government to refrain from resorting to anything that would threaten Egyptian national security, acting on the basis of good-neighborliness and noninterference in either sides' domestic affairs.

Israel's Rabin Telephones Mubarak for Talks

NC3001200793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1945 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Egyptian television interrupted its normal programming tonight to announce that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had telephoned President Husni Mubarak. The call dealt with the Palestinian deportees issue.

A responsible source told an AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent that the coming few days may witness the end of this issue.

Israeli Ruling Viewed; Arab 'Self-Restraint' Urged

NC2901164693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "The Israeli Government and Its Policy of Role Distribution To Attain its Objectives"]

[Text] The Israeli High Court of Justice's approval of [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin government's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinian citizens to the Lebanese border came as no surprise to many people. It had not been ruled out by the most optimistic political analysts, because, after all, both the government and the court in question are Israeli, while the deportees are Palestinians who were uprooted from Palestinian territory. Such is Israel's lame democracy and such is its claim about the separation of powers. This is the policy of which Rabin's government boasts, its claim that it respects the opinion of the Israeli judiciary, and its publicity-conscious refusal to intervene before the court had its say. The roles have been skillfully assigned and the scenario adroitly directed with the objective of letting many months pass until the world community has lost interest in the deportees issue and in whether it is legal for the Israeli occupation authorities to uproot Palestinian citizens from their country.

There is no risk involved when the Israeli High Court permits the deportees to appeal separately against their expulsion. While professing impartiality and democracy, the Israeli High Court will pave the way for the Israeli Government to indulge in political maneuvering, wasting time, and diminishing the issue. When the Israeli High Court gives every Palestinian deportee the right to lodge a separate appeal against his expulsion, it actually is giving the deportees the rope with which they can hang their cause and enter a maze of prolonged litigation and investigation—all this while they are still expelled from their land.

The Israeli Government again is giving the world proof of its professional-level performance during times of crisis and its unequalled ability to maneuver, deceive, waste time, and diminish issues. When Rabin asks the United Nations and the nations of the free world to wait until the judiciary makes its decision and urges the UN Security Council not to hasten in discussing the deportees issue, he really is trying to kill two birds with one stone. He wants to give a false impression of Israel's splendid democracy and the independence of its governmental institutions while manipulating the time factor to achieve his inhuman objectives and press on with the satanic scheme of uprooting the Palestinians from their occupied land via a policy of transfer and ethnic cleansing, relying on so-called security necessities to forego full and formal investigations.

We have the right to ask, specifically of Rabin's government: How can such an Israeli policy help to build bridges of trust between Israel and the Arabs to attain Middle East peace and settle the Palestinian issue?

We do not contradict the facts when we say that the policy of population transfer initiated by Rabin's government is the new, innovative method of ruining the Middle East peace negotiations by attempting to force the Arab parties participating in the talks to adopt hardline positions and withdraw voluntarily from the negotiating table. This is a dangerous pitfall about which we are warning Arab negotiators. We know this from our long experience of dealing with Israeli negotiators who have had much practice in compelling other parties to adopt particular stances that will serve their own long-term goals. We say this: Legitimate rights will not be lost, even if a long time passes, and one day they must be restored. It is the natural logic of life and human history. We must exercise self-restraint, however, and avoid excited and uncontrolled reaction. We must define our basic national goals very clearly, seek to attain them patiently and calmly, and avoid being distracted from them by artificial crises and suspect actions.

Musa on Deportees, U.S., Iraq, Sudan, Iran

NC3001232093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2039 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 30 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that the decision to deport the Palestinians violates international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention. He said that the insistence on the deportation is regarded as a challenge to the Security Council resolution, noting that there is a solid foundation for a frank, decisive Security Council resolution and that this is the framework in which consultations should take place.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR today, the foreign minister referred to the UN secretary general's address to the Security Council, in which he said that additional measures will be necessary if his envoy to the Middle East fails to make Israel implement Resolution 799. Musa said that the secretary general's recommendations will be a fundamental part of the information on which the Security Council will act.

He pointed out that a solution to this problem must be initiated on the basis of the deportees' return to clear the clouded atmosphere prevailing over the peace process. He said he is not very optimistic, but added that he has some hope for a solution because of international pressures, denunciations, and other reactions, which were not expected to be of this magnitude. He said: I cannot be decisive in this respect, but we are pushing toward finding a solution. We have some hope, as I said, and therefore I visited Israel. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid also is making efforts toward this goal.

On continuing the peace process, Musa said it is an option that must not be ignored or eliminated, that the Madrid course is the best option for the peace process, and that therefore, it should continue. He noted that the negotiations held so far according to that course confirm that there is progress, even though it is minor.

Regarding the Palestinian course, he said this requires greater attention. He added: We realize the numerous restrictions and pressures placed on the Palestinians because they are the party with the least capability to maneuver—with the least number of cards to place on the negotiating table. We must support them with some additional cards so that we may achieve acceptable progress.

On the assistance which may be given the Palestinians, Musa said: They can be assisted through negotiating expertise, and we should stand fast with them on certain constants to avoid an insufficient agreement, because such an agreement is rejected. We seek an agreement based on the principles of justice and that is not subject to measurements of strength and weakness. This is because the Palestinian issue is fundamental to the Arab-Israeli conflict. If a just agreement is not reached with the Palestinians, the basis of the conflict will continue to exist.

On how the change in the U.S. Administration will affect the Middle East peace process, Musa asked: In whose interest would the new U.S. Administration hamper the peace process as long as the parties to the conflict are eager to continue it and the United States' active role? He said that the new U.S. Administration can benefit from the previous administration's accomplishments by sponsoring the peace process and picking up the process where the previous administration left off.

He noted that the U.S. Administration, whether Democratic or Republican, has dealt with the Middle East conflict since it started. He said that the Carter administration, a Democratic administration, sponsored the Camp David Accords which led to Israel's complete withdrawal from the Sinai and to peace between Egypt and Israel. He added that the Carter administration viewed the solution to the Middle East crisis as proceeding from the principle of land for peace. During the final years of the Republicans' rule, he continued, the U.S. Administration sponsored and (?initiated) the peace process proceeding from the same principle of land for peace.

Musa said the administration of former U.S. President George Bush was a sincere sponsor of the negotiations and was eager to achieve peace. Therefore, he added, there has been no difference between the Republican and Democratic administrations' views on Middle East peace and there are no separating and final borders between the Democrats and Republicans.

On the United States' bias toward Israel, Musa said in the interview: It is obvious that there is an intimate U.S.-Israeli relationship. I do not believe, however, that such relations will make the U.S. Administration back down on the principle of land for peace, because this would be a major political catastrophe that might lead to political chaos in the entire region. Therefore, I think the U.S. Administration will adhere to the principle of land for peace.

The foreign minister said that the Israeli Knesset's recent decision allowing contacts with the PLO indicates an Israeli shift toward peace.

Replying to a question on an Egyptian initiative to restore Arab solidarity, Musa said: We support and work for reuniting the Arab fold, including Iraq as a major and important Arab country. This goal requires an Iraqi policy that makes Iraq active in Arab solidarity, but so far the circumstances are not favorable.

He added: We in Egypt are the strongest supporters among the Arabs for Arab solidarity. The proof is that, regarding the chemical weapons issue, we advocated the need for Arab solidarity and achieved a significant result. As for Iraq, we need time because Arab solidarity is not simply a matter of making a decision. There are ideas being examined that have not yet reached the stage of contacts and consultations.

Commenting on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa said that the crisis between the two countries was caused by the Sudanese policy or by certain tendencies within that policy. He added that there are some ramifications and differences over various issues, including Hala'ib. This is the most simple of the issues because there are political borders and administrative lines and we are willing to respect these lines and borders, he said. He added: Our political borders are on the 22d parallel, north of which Hala'ib is situated. Hala'ib is indisputably Egyptian. There will be no retreat from this stand under any circumstances.

He noted that we actually have received written and published information regarding Sudan's political leanings that have become a source of threat to Egypt and a source of complaint for more than one Arab country. He said that these leanings may be supported by other parties and added that there will be no leniency when it comes to the state's and citizens' security. He went on to say that anyone who violates the law should be dealt with harshly and that no one can accept or sympathize with a terrorist operation.

On relations with Iran, Musa said: The relationship with Iran is based on the fact that it is a neighboring and sisterly country that has its own history. Therefore, we envisage that a relationship must be established with Iran and that this must rely on three bases—mutual desire for this relationship, dialogue to deal with the reasons that have led to the current problems, and not falling prey to [Iran's] uneasiness.

He noted that there is an Arab nation, Arab security, and Arab dialogue—things that are natural among countries with the same identity. This should not cause Iran to be uneasy, because they are Iranians and we are Arabs. We Arabs have common interests, which we discuss. This gives us the right to have our own policy in the region. He pointed out that the door remains open for dialogue, but there is a need to review the policies that have led to the current differences, which are detrimental to both parties' interests.

Answering a question on the fate of the Damascus Declaration, Musa said: I said once that the Damascus Declaration was tottering. It is still tottering, but to a lesser extent. Talk now is focused on continuing consultations, specifically within the economic framework and cooperation in all spheres. Meetings also will be held soon.

He noted that the Damascus Declaration was not a departure from the Arab League, but that the Arab League at the time of Arab division helped hamper cooperation. Therefore, the Damascus Declaration has served as a catalyst which has stimulated the Arab League's work. The Damascus Declaration has not performed the role created for it. Our continued support for the declaration and our efforts to keep it from stumbling will not hinder our efforts for general Arab action. We are certain that general Arab action is suffering the consequences of the Arab division which resulted from the Gulf crisis.

Commenting on the extremists' acts of violence in Egypt, Musa said that the political arena in Egypt absorbs all lines of thought and that each trend—whether the left, right, al-Wafd, Islamic, or Nasirite—has its own place.

He added that the presence of all these currents is a healthy sign and that violence is what the security authorities must confront.

He said violence means that the issue has gone beyond the limits of freedom and persuasion and propagating ideas on issues threatening security. This, he added, is rejected by any security apparatus. What is permitted is the presence of political movements that have the right to express their ideas and tenets politically, whether through writing, argument, or demonstrations.

Concluding his interview, the foreign minister said that Egypt is now passing through a stage of reconstruction and that this stage has been in progress for years now to rebuild Egypt economically, socially, educationally, and environmentally, and that it might continue through the 1990s.

Musa Comments on Deportees Issue, U.S., Iran

NC3101214693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Geneva tonight.

He stated on arrival that he has postponed his visit to Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya in order to follow up on urgent matters, foremost of which is the Palestinian deportees issue. He said that contacts are continuing to ensure the deportees' return. He added that he has met several times with the Israeli foreign minister to discuss the deportees issue.

On the Security Council meeting, Musa said that this issue is still under discussion, that contacts are continuing, and that Egypt backs and supports the deportees' return and any step that aims to achieve this. He added that a number of proposals to resolve the deportees' problem are now under discussion.

The foreign minister also said that Egypt is in contact with the United States and that President Bill Clinton has telephoned President Husni Mubarak. He added that there was another contact between him and the U.S. secretary of state and that Dr. Usamah al- Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and Director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, presently is holding contacts with the U.S. Administration on this issue. He noted that Egypt also is holding contacts with the Palestinian side.

On Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to Marj al-Zuhur, Musa said that such a visit stresses the Arabs' total support for the deportees, shows that the Arabs share the deportees' harsh living conditions, and clearly exhibits the Arab countries' insistence on their return in accordance with the provisions of international law and within the framework of preserving the peace process and continuing action to reach a swift, peaceful settlement that ensures the Palestinian people's rights.

Commenting on Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statement that Iran is eager to have good relations with Egypt, Musa said that these are positive and agreeable statements.

Musa: Hamas 'Accusations' Termed 'Baseless'

NC0102114793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1035 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is making continuous and intensive efforts to help solve the deportees issue based on their return. Answering claims that Egypt deals with the deportees' issue from the perspective that they belong to Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), Musa stressed that Egypt's stand on the deportation of the Palestinians does not distinguish between one Palestinian and another and that all deportees must return, whether they belong to Hamas, Fatah, or any other organization.

Musa added that if Hamas has certain accusations [against Egypt] in view of Hamas' stand on the peace process, these accusations are baseless. Even if these accusations are true, they are merely political differences and do not mean that we should quarrel with anyone. They also do not mean that the Israeli authorities have the right to expel them en masse.

Musa said that based on the contacts he held with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Switzerland last week and with the Palestinian leadership, he has determined that the situation requires close and immediate scrutiny. For this reason, he returned to Cairo from Geneva and postponed his African tour to follow up on the deportees issue.

'Accusations' in U.S. Human Rights Report Refuted

NC3001180293 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 28 Jan-3 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] A recent report published by the U.S. State Department dealt with human rights in Egypt. Certain accusations were made in the report which were described as exaggerations by the Interior Ministry. The EOHR [Egyptian Organization for Human Rights], however, found the report to be accurate. Din 'Izzat looks at both sides of the issue.

Issued on 20 January, the section on Egypt in this year's State Department report on human rights lists an increase in Islamist extremist activity in 1992, but it also levelled accusations of human rights violations committed by Egyptian security bodies.

The report's main criticism was that, in spite of the various human rights guaranteed by the Egyptian constitution, certain abuses are still being recorded and a number of basic rights continue to be restricted.

In a statement the Ministry of Interior refuted the reported human rights violations in Egypt. "The information in that report was obtained from accused and arrested persons who have an obvious interest in levelling accusations at the security bodies," said Major General Baha'-al-Din Ibrahim, senior Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Interior. "The demise of a prisoner in jail cannot be interpreted as death due to police torture. However, the family and friends of the dead prisoners like to claim that they were killed by the police," Ibrahim explained. According to him, "those who died in Egyptian prisons last year were not victims of police abuse or use of force."

While admitting that some police officers may sometimes resort to excessive use of force, and thus commit violations, Ibrahim asserted that no one can claim that prisons or any other institutions of the Ministry of Interior are the scenes of human rights violations. "The prisons are open to investigation by independent judicial bodies. These bodies are available and can be easily approached by anyone claiming to have been tortured, or their families," he said.

Ibrahim added that those found guilty of violating human rights in Ministry of Interior institutions are severely punished. The Ministry has a regulatory body in charge of uncovering any violations. He added that there were about 100 officers suspected of exceeding their jurisdiction while dealing with prisoners or suspects. He affirmed that no officer proven guilty of such charges ever escapes punishment. According to Ibrahim, 12 officers are behind bars for committing human rights violations.

Moreover, Ibrahim denied all allegations of the misuse of police powers permitted under emergency laws. "Emergency laws are not a device of the Egyptian Ministry of Interior," he said, "and they are applied under the supervision of an independent judicial body."

The State Department report had claimed that in 1992, a detainee died due to police torture, and two detainees died a short time after their release from prison where they claimed to have been severely tortured. In anti-extremist operations the police were accused, in the report, of allegedly killing 33 persons of whom six were innocent bystanders. At the same time, the U.S. State Department report also noted that Islamist extremist activities had escalated during 1992. An indication of this was the assassination of Faraj Fudah, a writer and prominent advocate of secularism, as well as the deaths of a number of innocent Muslims and Copts.

While the report did not record any new disappearances in 1992, it censured the government for failing to resolve previously recorded cases.

On the other hand, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR), does not share the official point of view. According to EOHR, last year witnessed increasing police abuses of its powers. Torture is no more confined to State Security Investigations (SSI) offices and to police stations, it is now practised in Central Security Forces (CSF) camps and hospitals as well, a leading member of EOHR told Al-Ahram Weekly.

A member of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood Organisation identifies another way out: True freedom and democracy. "If you allow people the right to oppose the government and to work to replace it with what they see as the right regime, then police, no matter how vicious or untrained, will not torture or unjustifiedly arrest people," he said.

'Arafat Stops in Cairo, Briefed on Deportees

NC0102082493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0656 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning following a one-hour stopover at Cairo Airport.

The Palestinian president was received and seen off by Presidential Office Secretary 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sillawi, who conveyed President Husni Mubarak's greetings. 'Arafat also was received by Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Following 'Arafat's departure, Sa'id Kamal said he briefed the Palestinian president on his contacts with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa concerning the Palestinian deportees. The Palestinian ambassador stressed that 'Arafat will visit Egypt soon and that preparations for this visit will be arranged later.

Regarding a question about Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's expected visit to Marj al-Zuhur and his meeting with the deportees, the Palestinian ambassador expressed hope that this visit will achieve the desired objective.

PLO's Sha'th Says Meeting Israelis Postponed

NC3101180193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1641 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this afternoon.

Dr. Sha'th stated on arrival that the recent PLO Executive Committee meeting discussed the Israeli court ruling on the Palestinian deportees and a number of measures to deal with this stage, particularly with the Security Council meeting.

He added that president 'Arafat briefed the committee on the results of his contacts with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Switzerland and Egyptian efforts to have the deportees returned to their homes.

Dr. Sha'th went on to say that he presented a report to the committee on his trip to Europe with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Committee to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and their talks with European Parliament members, EC leaders, and the Belgian and Austrian foreign ministers.

He referred to his meeting with Israeli Knesset Deputy Ya'el Dayan, who stressed her rejection of the decision to deport the Palestinians and her insistence on their return.

He said that the Palestinian leadership decided to postpone holding meetings with Israeli officials until the deportees are returned.

Minister Says 85 Percent of 'Extremists' Detained

NC3001070593 Paris AFP in English 0108 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 30 (AFP) - Egyptian police have detained some 85 percent of the Islamic extremists active in Egypt, Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa told participants at a conference here Friday [29 January]. He did not give figures for the numbers of Islamic activists being held however.

The minister, addressing a debate on religious extremism held on the sidelines of Cairo's 25th annual book fair, also denied that the government had sought the return of a fundamentalist leader from the United States.

However he said that if the leader, 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, were to return to Egypt and stir up trouble, he would be prosecuted.

Several fundamentalists arrested in recent weeks have been found in possession of tape cassettes recorded by 'Abd-al-Rahman, who has been in the United States for over a year.

The government has stepped up its operations against the fundamentalists since they started targetting foreign tourists, an essential source of foreign exchange for the country.

Musa also said the government had made discreet arrangements to protect tourists at key sites. He said the arrangements were not visible to visitors so as not to frighten them.

Police Officer Injured in al-Jizah Attack

NC2901121493 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan 29 (AFP)—A senior Egyptian police officer was burned in the face when a suspected Muslim extremist hurled a firebomb at his car in Cairo, police said Friday [29 January].

Colonel Mustafa 'Ashmawi, a security officer in the western suburb of al-Jizah, was driving through the working-class district of Imbabah on Thursday when the firebomb was thrown by a man who then fled, the police said.

'Ashmawi was taken to hospital with burns in the face. [passage omitted]

Police Attackers Captured

NC2901161493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa announced that security organs today captured four terrorists who recently committed several crimes as part of the attacks on police cars, the latest of which was the attack on al-Jizah Intelligence Inspector Colonel Mustafa 'Ashmawi last night in the Imbabah area.

In statements he made to correspondents today following a reception held to honor the Police College [word indistinct], the interior minister said that the security forces monitored and (?followed) this group until they were apprehended in a remote area of al-Salam District.

The interior minister asserted that the capture of this terrorist group will help reveal information about a number of crimes it has committed. Its capture will also lead to the arrest of the remaining members of the fugitive terrorist group, which was exposed by the security organs in the past two days following the killing of two transport policemen in the Bulaq area.

'Abd-al-Halim Musa said the security forces confiscated with the terrorists three bottles containing incendiary materials, and that these were found to be the same type used by the terrorists in the attacks on police vehicles. The security forces also found other material used to make these devices.

The interior minister added that the security forces also seized with the terrorists two shotguns, a double-barrel Russian-made shotgun, 25 Russian-made bullets, and 27 shotgun shells. He said that the security forces are continuing their efforts to apprehend the remaining terrorists according to the information available to them.

'Imbabah Republic' Leader, 42 Others Arrested

NC3001202593 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1923 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid, leader of the Imbabah Republic has been detained. Higher State Security Prosecution officials today began interrogating 42 terrorists arrested in Imbabah over the past three days, including Muhammad 'Abd-al-Majid, the leader of the group.

Prosecution officials also are interrogating defendants in the Imbabah Republic case, including Shaykh Jabir Rayyan and 15 others. The prosecution has remanded 16 men into police custody for 15 days pending investigations, postponed the investigations, and ordered the indefinite detention of the defendants.

Shaykh Jabir's 15 associates have admitted that their leader has arranged for the venues of the meetings and rallies of the extremist groups. He was confronted with the confessions of his associates, who said that he took part in the sectarian riots on 21 September 1991. 'Abd-al-Majid confessed that he ordered Shaykh Jabir to burn police cars in order to disperse the security forces surrounding the neighborhood.

Imbabah 'Terrorist' Killed

NC3101164093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—A dangerous criminal was killed in Imbabah [Cairo neighborhood] this afternoon in an exchange of fire with policemen manning a checkpoint as part of a police dragnet to hunt down terrorists who recently attacked police cars.

The terrorist, a man called Majdi who also goes by the nickname "Kung Fu," was shot dead by a policeman when he opened fire on a police force.

'Just Revenge' Claims Attacks on Police, Tourists

NC3101160293 Paris AFP in English 1510 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 31 (AFP) - A previously unknown Muslim extremist group claimed responsibility Sunday [31 January] for a string of attacks on police and foreign tourists, boasting it had turned the Egyptian capital into "an arena of holy war."

Two policemen were injured in a fire-bomb attack in the Imbabah district on Saturday, raising to five the number of police casualties in three separate operations over the last week.

Two policemen were shot dead on January 24 in another fundamentalist stronghold, the working-class district of Bulaq.

A group calling itself "Just Revenge," in a statement delivered to AFP, said it carried out the attacks "to avenge our sons who are victims of torture" in police detention.

The strikes "prove that Cairo has become the arena of our jihad (holy war) and that Imbabah has become the Dayrut of Cairo," the group said, referring to a region of southern Egypt where Muslim fundamentalist unrest has been rife.

Just Revenge also claimed a series of fire-bomb attacks on tourist buses and diplomatic vehicles in January in and around the capital. There were no casualties.

Analysts said the communique showed that al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [the Islamic Group], which has been blamed for the wave of unrest since last March, had split up into smaller groups or that it was trying to cover its tracks.

Ban Upheld on Fundamentalist al-Sahwah Party

NC3101221393 Paris AFP in English 2130 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 31 (AFP) - An Egyptian high court Sunday [31 January] upheld a government ruling barring the creation of a fundamentalist party, saying it would be financed from abroad and violate the Constitution.

The ruling came as Egyptian police Sunday shot dead an Islamic fundamentalist and wounded another in clashes in Cairo. A previously unknown Muslim group meanwhile claimed responsibility for recent attacks and threatened to turn Cairo into "an arena of holy war."

The Administrative Commission of the State Council said a government commission had been correct in not allowing the formation of the fundamentalist al-Sahwah [Awakening] Party, led by Shaykh Yusuf al-Badri, a key fundamentalist figure.

The court said the party "would allow itself to accept Arab and foreign financing" which contravened the law on parties.

The ruling also accused the would-be party of wanting to "dispense Christian Egyptians from having to do military service and charge them a poll tax instead." That would also be against the Constitution, which says "the defense of national territory is a sacred duty for all Egyptians."

The party "objected to socialism and the principles of the revolution of 1952" which overthrew King Faruq, and the law on parties says Egyptian parties should not challenge these principles, the ruling said.

The court ruling also accused the would-be party of advocating having a religious leader take the place of the president and rule for life.

Finally, the law on parties respects Islamic or shari'ah law as the main source of legislation but prohibits religious parties, it said.

Libya

'Arafat Meets With Jallud, Holds Talks

LD2901181593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The brother leader president Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, met yesterday Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council. During the meeting, the latest current political developments, the siege imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the importance of joint Arab action in confrontation of major challenges, and the need to secure optimum Arab solidarity were discussed.

Also, the brother President Abu-Ammar reviewed the latest developments of the Palestinian problem, the heroic intifadah of our people in the occupied territories, and the means for its escalation and continuation, and the need to support it and strengthen it.

Moreover, brother President Abu-Ammar dealt with the harsh and difficult conditions of the banished Palestinians and the moves made by the PLO for their return in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 and the need to impose sanctions against Israel for its challenge of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Sudan

Egypt Accused of Trying To Annex Hala'ib Triangle

PM2901160793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Ahmad al-Sukkari in Cairo, 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum, and Mu'awiyah Yasin in London: "Practical Egyptian Steps To Confirm Sovereignty Over Hala'ib and a Sudanese Threat of Violent Reaction"]

[Excerpts] A senior Sudanese official has warned that his country would react "violently" to what he called "the Egyptianization" of the members of two Sudanese tribes living in the Hala'ib triangle, which is disputed by the two countries. He threatened to call a meeting of the Security Council to decide the issue. In Cairo it was announced yesterday evening that the People's Assembly's Defense and National Security Committee members would pay a "field visit" to Hala'ib next month. [passage omitted]

In Khartoum a senior official at the presidential court told AL-HAYAH yesterday that Sudan did not wish to be responsible for any harm to "the historical and eternal relations" between the two countries, "but a chain of Egyptian aggressions would leave us no choice but to respond violently." He declined to say what measures Khartoum would take against its northern neighbor, which is host to about 3 million Sudanese people.

He added that "the channels of contact between the two countries are no longer adequate to convey our requirements and our reservations about Egyptian behavior. It is increasingly apparent that Egypt will force us to request a meeting of the UN Security Council, because we believe that the occupation of the area and the announcement that its Sudanese citizens have been forced to accept Egyptian identity cards and birth certificates mean that Cairo intends to finally annex the area to it." [passage omitted]

Warning of Violent Response

AB3001091093 Paris AFP in English 0114 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Manama, Jan 29 (AFP) - Sudan will respond "with violence" to Egypt's efforts to assert its sovereignty on the disputed oil-rich region of Hala'ib, a Sudanese official warned in a report published Friday [29 January].

"The series of Egyptian aggressions does not leave any other choice but to respond with violence," the unidentified official said in the Arabic-language newspaper Al-Hayat, published in Manama and other Arab capitals.

He did not say what measures would be taken but warned that "contacts by diplomatic channels between the two countries are no longer sufficient to convey Khartoum's protests and reservations toward Egypt's actions."

"The occupation of Hala'ib and measures aimed at forcing Sudanese citizens to accept Egyptian identity cards show that Cairo seeks the annexation of this region," he charged.

Egyptian defense ministry officials have visited Hala'ib and issued Egyptian papers to members of the Ababda and Bashareya tribes living in the triangle bordering the Red Sea, the Cairo daily Al-Gumhuriya reported Thursday.

The Sudanese official said Egypt, which is home to three million Sudanese, was pushing Khartoum to "call for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council."

Sudan in December requested that the Security Council intervene to obtain the removal of "Egyptian military and civilian personnel" from Hala'ib.

The defense ministry delegation's week-long visit to Hala'ib was part of measures Egypt has taken to strengthen its claim to the region, which is rich in oil.

Former President Numayri Still Planning Return

PM2901122993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Sudan: Twelve Officers Arrested After Reports of Coup Attempt"]

[Excerpts] London—There have been reports in London, Cairo, and Khartoum about the foiling of a coup attempt in Sudan believed to have been planned by elements loyal to former President Ja'far Numayri, who said that he "expects anything to happen." He added: "We are working silently and secretly."

Information on the attempt indicates that 12 Sudanese officers were arrested following the uncovering of the case. But an official in the office of Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir denied these reports and said: "The Army stands resolutely behind the National Salvation Revolution." [passage omitted]

Politicians and Sudanese citizens arriving in Cairo from Sudan said that the recent attempt is believed to be behind the dismissal from his post as interior minister of Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

It is believed that the Sudanese Army still contains elements loyal to Numayri, who was overthrown by a civilian uprising in 1985. But his civilian supporters are divided into three main wings. The first is led by his former vice president Abu-al-Qasim Ibrahim, who announced that he was joining the present regime's institutions. This wing includes some members of the al-Hashmab family, which has provided Sudan with intellectual, political, and religious leaders who have considerably influenced the country's course since before independence. Former communists lead another wing of Numayri supporters. [passage omitted]

Numayri himself leads another wing. However, he told AL-HAYAH that he lacks financial resources: "I cannot even afford international telephone calls." He said that about a year ago he made contact with a representative of Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, to establish coordination between the two sides, "but we did not engage in any action because of their belief that I could finance them and benefit them with my broad contacts." He added: "Everything is possible, but it is unreasonable for me to contact foreign states to supply me with weapons to topple the regime." [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Turkish Prime Minister Demirel Continues Visit

Meets Premier

JN2901122993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Manama, 29 Jan (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel held a round of official talks here this morning. [passage omitted]

WAKH has learned that these talks were permeated by a cordial spirit and a common desire between the two parties to bolster and reinforce prospects for cooperation in various fields. Talks dealt with bilateral relations as well as a number of regional and international issues of common interest, especially those related to the Islamic world.

The two sides discussed developments in the Gulf region. They stressed the importance of achieving stability in this vital region and the need to consolidate all regional and international efforts to maintain the security, stability, and safety of the region's states. They emphasized that conflicts should be solved through peaceful means, rejecting the principle of using force to resolve conflicts.

Upon reviewing the situation in the Middle East and the peace process, the two sides stressed the need to give momentum to this march and to overcome all obstacles impeding its success. They also emphasized the need to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region that would restore to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

The two sides demanded the return of Palestinian deportees to their homeland, stressing that Israel should be committed to the Security Council resolution calling for the return of the deportees.

The two sides expressed concern over the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They emphasized their condemnation of the continued acts of annihilation against Muslims in that region, calling on the international community to take all necessary measures to force Serbia and Montenegro to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

In the field of bilateral relations, the two sides were satisfied with the growth and development of these relations, and are seeking to continue reinforcing and strengthening them.

The two parties were also satisfied with their growing bilateral economic relations and trade. They both expressed their aspirations for increasing cooperation and stressed their determination to bolster cordial cooperation relations and their willingness to continue bolstering and developing these relations in various fields. Suleyman Demirel extended an official invitation to Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to visit Turkey. His highness thankfully accepted the invitation for which a date will be fixed in the future.

Demirel Answers Questions

TA2901123793 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by Kandemir Alpan from Bahrain]

[Text] In a news conference in Bahrain today, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel recalled that he received a warm welcome on his arrival in Bahrain yesterday, adding: There is a brotherly community here which loves Turkey and the Turkish nation. Explaining that Turkey is determined to develop the relations between the two countries and the necessary political will exists to achieve this, the prime minister remarked that the two countries are led by administrations which understand each other. Turkey and Bahrain are obliged to know and understand one another better, Demirel said, adding that big tasks fall on businessmen and the press in this regard.

Recalling that in the past year, he conducted official visits to various countries including the United States, the Central Asian and Gulf countries, and Japan, Demirel said that during these visits he stressed the peaceful aspect of Turkish foreign policy. He remarked that Turkey was warmly welcomed in all these countries. He explained that there is extreme sensitivity to peace and stability especially in the Middle East and Gulf region.

Demirel declared: From here, I would like to appeal to the international community. Let us all act together to ensure that confrontations and tensions are replaced by cooperation and solidarity in this region, which is strategically important for the entire world. The world must stop regarding the region as a rich weapons market. We must all help in guaranteeing that regional resources are used for the prosperity and happiness of the local population.

In his news conference, Demirel also replied to questions. Answering a question, Demirel underlined that regional stability closely concerns world stability as well. He stated that Islamic countries should display more solidarity with one another and if any one member experiences difficulties it should receive more assistance and interest from the other members.

Commenting on his contacts concerning the defense industry field, the prime minister declared: Every country has its defense needs. Defense is one matter, and excessive armament is another. Our friends and brothers could benefit from our industry in this field to serve a kind of defense that will not disturb anyone.

Asked by a Bahraini journalist to comment on Turkey's efforts for regional and global stability, Demirel responded: Turkey does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country, and no country should interfere in the affairs of another. Turkey is opposed to border changes or territorial gains through the use of force. No country should adopt this path. Turkey is in favor of resolving conflicts through peaceful means and everyone should act in this way. Failing that, they will have to face the world, and with the world, Turkey.

Before his news conference, Demirel called on Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. The official Turkish- Bahraini talks were also held today. Various regional and international problems as well as bilateral relations were discussed at the talks.

At the end of the official talks, the two sides signed a cultural agreement. The agreement, which was signed by the two prime ministers, envisages student exchanges and cooperation between the universities and media organs of Turkey and Bahrain.

Following the news conference, Demirel attended prayers at the mosque. The prime minister and the delegation accompanying him today will conclude their contacts in the United Arab Emirates, the last leg of his tour of the Gulf countries, and will return to Turkey late tonight.

Accompanying Demirel on his tour are Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, State Minister Cavit Caglar, and Agriculture and Village Affairs Minister Necmettin Cevheri.

Amir Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, Amir Message

JN3101120093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 Jan (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a written message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, dealing with the strong fraternal bilateral relations, the latest developments in the region, and viewpoints on Arab and international issues of joint interest.

The message was delivered by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister in a meeting with the amir of the State of Bahrain at noon today.

During the meeting, all issues relating to the region and current developments in the Arab and international arenas were discussed. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Minister Comments

JN0102113193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0935 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Manama, 1 Feb (WAKH)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation left Manama for Doha today at the end of a two- day visit to Bahrain during which he delivered a written message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, dealing with bilateral relations and the Gulf, Arab, and international developments of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Upon his departure, Shaykh Sabah said that he delivered a written message from the amir of Kuwait dealing with bilateral relations, the situation between Kuwait and Iraq, the Arab situation in general, in addition to international issues of joint interest.

He added that he also met with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, and discussed with him ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation, as well as current developments in the Gulf and Arab arenas.

He also said that he held talks with the Bahraini foreign minister that focused on a number of regional, Arab, and international issues. They also dealt with the situation on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and implementation of Security Council resolutions in this respect.

He said that he explained these issues, adding that viewpoints on them were identical. He hailed the understanding and response toward all issues discussed and the determination to implement UN resolutions he sensed from the ranking Bahraini officials.

He said that his tour of GCC states and a number of other Arab countries aims at explaining to the leaders of these countries Kuwait's position on the current situation with Iraq, and its viewpoint toward a number of issues relating to the implementation of Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Denies Reports of Meeting With Peres

LD3101222493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1950 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 31 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwait today categorically denied reports circulating by the Iraqi regime's media organs about a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Kuwaiti economists in the Swiss town of Davos.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told KUNA that this "report is totally baseless, as is the custom of the Iraqi media of circulating such rumors and false claims". [passage omitted]

Kuwait has on every occasion stressed its unchanging stance and support for the Palestinian question and its solidarity with the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, the spokesman said. The Iraqi regime, by spreading such false reports, is endeavoring to confuse the issue and the stands. [passage omitted]

In another development, 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Badr, the deputy director general of the Kuwaiti Economic Development Fund in a statement to KUNA denied that Kuwaiti officials had participated in the international conference at Davos.

Foreign Minister Departs on Diplomatic Tour

LD3001122893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 30 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has left the country this morning to begin a Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to a number of fraternal and friendly countries, carrying messages from his highness the emir of the country to the leaders of those states. In a statement to KUNA and the daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at his departure, Sabah al-Ahmad said that the aim of this tour is to explain the Kuwaiti viewpoint on the recent developments pertaining to Iraq, particularly in regard to Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders issue and the insistence of the Iraqi regime on violating the resolutions of the UN Security Council. [passage omitted]

Asked by KUNA about the latest decision of the Israeli court supporting the position of the Israeli Government on the deportation of the Palestinians from the occupied territories, Sabah al-Ahmad, said: "Everyone wishes the latest resolution of the Security Council to be implemented. For our part, we have held a meeting of the Arab League, which made a decision to support the Security Council." He added: " We will follow up this subject and pursue it until the return of the deported Palestinian brothers to their homeland is achieved." [passage omitted]

Sabah al-Ahmad will pay visits to the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Syria, Egypt, Iran, India, Pakistan, Turkey, Djibouti, and Morocco. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Leaves for European Tour

LD3101133393 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir left this morning for Belgium on the first stage of a tour of European countries. Accompanying the interior minister on his tour are Ahmad al-Ibrahim, the Kuwaiti ammassador to Belgium and the EC, and Ambassador Abd al-Hamid al-Awadi, the director of the Department of International Organizations at the Foreign Ministry.

Court Sentences Collaborator to Death, Jails Others

LD3001150293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 30 Jan 93

[All names as received]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 30 Jan (KUNA)—The State Security Court today passed a death sentence here on a Kuwaiti woman for collaborating with Iraqi forces during the occupation of Kuwait. At the same time, it postponed the hearing of three others charged with possessing large quantities of weapons.

The court found that the accused, Siham A., guilty as charged, namely that she helped the occupation forces by weakening citizens' morale and informing on Kuwaiti army personnel, leading to their arrest by the Iraqi secret services.

The court postponed to 7 February its hearing of the cases of 'Adil Y., 'Adil M., and Tariq T.—all Kuwaitis. On 1 December last, the Kuwait security authorities announced that they discovered large quantities of light and medium weapons in the defendants' possession at al-Sulaybiyah, 30 km southwest of Kuwait City. They also announced that they discovered a truck load of weapons near the home of the first of these defendants, who initially fled but later handed himself over to the security authorities.

The court also sentenced Hazza' B., a Kuwaiti, to 14 years imprisonment for possessing an explosive charge without permit, for drinking liquor in a public place, and for smuggling goods.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Receives Message From PLO's Qaddumi

JN3101115793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Doha, 31 Jan (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani has received a written message from Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department.

The Qatari news agency said the message, which was conveyed through diplomatic channels, deals with the developments of the Palestine question, the peace process, the problem of the Palestinian deportees, and the obstacles Israel is creating to prevent their return to their homeland.

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD3001151893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 30 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived at noon today in Riyadh on a two-day official visit, during which he will deliver a message from his highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz-al-Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

Received by King

LD3001200293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1754 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 30 Jan (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait. The message was delivered by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, when King Fahd received him and the delegation accompanying him at his office at al-Yamamah Palace today. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told SPA that he was carrying a message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait, for his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and that the message was about the situation in the region in general. He pointed out that his visit came at the start of his tour to a number of states aimed at explaining this situation. He said: "The Kingdom and Kuwait are one country and they will have one policy forever, God willing."

For his part, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal welcomed the visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to the Kingdom. His royal highness said: "The visit of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad is an opportunity which will enable us to exchange viewpoints on issues which concern the two countries, especially at this crucial time."

Finance Minister Denies Meeting With Israeli Official

LD3101192893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1836 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (SPA)—His Excellency Muhammad Aba al- Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy, has denied a report broadcast by Israel radio today, Sunday, to the effect that he had a meeting in Switzerland with the chairman of the Israeli Chamber of Commerce and made a statement to an Israeli radio correspondent. Mr. Aba al-Khayl said in a statement to SPA today that everything broadcast by Israel radio in this respect is entirely fabricated and absolutely groundless.

His excellency declared that he has never had any meeting with any Israeli official at all, and therefore made no statement, either to an Israeli radio correspondent or any other correspondent.

Defense Minister on Deterrent Nature of Strategic Missiles

LD3101195893 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, today visited one of the bases of the Strategic Missile Force. He was greeted by the commander of the Strategic Missile Force, the chiefs of staff, and the base commander. [passage omitted]

His royal highness later toured one of the positions and inspected a number of new installations at the base. He then inaugurated one of the force's positions and listened to a brief explanation on the position. He also toured the housing units, the amenities, and the main installations. [passage omitted]

He then addressed the staff of the Strategic Missile Force.

[Begin Prince Sultan recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers, staff of the Strategic Missile Force, all those present, and all those absent who are represented by their brothers, I greet you in the name of Islam; on behalf of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, supreme commander of the Armed Forces and custodian of the two holy mosques; on behalf of Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; and on behalf of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who view this force with respect and consideration. [passage omitted]

Brothers, you are aware of the silent and effective efforts made to create this force. This force is not a force of aggression or assault. It is a deterrent force against all those who attack this holy country and its honorable people. Therefore you are the ammunition, after God Almighty. [passage omitted] [end recording]

United Arab Emirates

Turkish Prime Minister, Delegation Visit

TA2901191993 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Report by Bulent Gullapoglu from Abu Dhabi]

[Text] At Bahrain airport, Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel was seen off by Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

Demirel replied to reporters' questions aboard the plane on his way from Bahrain to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. In reply to questions on the assassination of journalist Ugur Mumcu, Demirel said that, with the exception of three cases, all murder cases have been solved in Turkey. Noting that with the assassination of Mumcu the unsolved cases stand at four now, Demirel said that the security forces have some clues on these cases. He added: I cannot say anything definite regarding the Mumcu case at the moment but all of them will be solved. The perpetrators will not go unpunished.

On his arrival in Abu Dhabi, Demirel was received with a ceremony by UAE Deputy Prime Minister Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan. Later the official talks between the two countries were held.

Meanwhile, an agreement to prevent double taxation was also signed. The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on behalf of Turkey and by Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, UAE minister of foreign affairs.

Demirel was also received by UAE President Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The president also hosted a dinner in honor of Demirel. Demirel and the delegation accompanying him will return to Turkey tonight.

Foreign Ministers Meet

JN2901185693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Turkey have affirmed the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Gulf region. They asserted the need for Iraq's full compliance with all UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the Gulf crisis.

This came during a meeting between Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who is member of the of Turkish delegation accompanying Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, who is (?currently visiting the UAE).

The Turkish minister affirmed his country's support for the moves taken by the Arab Gulf states to establish their security and stability.

He indicated that his country considers itself [words indistinct].

The two sides expressed support for the peace process in the Middle East and demanded the return of Palestinian deportees to their homes and Israel's compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 799 in this regard. They emphasized that failure to implement this resolution is considered an obstacle to peace and to finding a solution to the Palestine question.

The two sides also expressed extreme concern with the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the Balkan region. They demanded that the arms ban imposed on Bosnia-Hercegovina be lifted [words indistinct] against Bosnia's Muslims.

The two countries' viewpoints regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina have been identical.

View Military Action in Bosnia

JN3001095993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (WAKH)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has said that the entire world, not just the Islamic world, should move to save the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina because the bloody tragedy there is an ugly, humanitarian one that has been going on for more than a year. He also said there must be a collective military confrontation, with strong international participation, if the ongoing Geneva conference on Bosnia- Hercegovina fails to reach a quick and peaceful solution to this tragedy.

In an interview with the Emirates news agency before leaving Abu Dhabi tonight, Demirel said he is optimistic and hopes that the desired peace can be achieved and that the bloodshed will stop as soon as possible.

Regarding the outcome of his tour of a number of Arab states, Demirel said the outcome was good and fruitful. He also said all leaders and officials in the countries he visited welcomed stronger cooperation and future relations based on dialogue and the exchange of views to achieve all ambitions and to coordinate efforts benefiting people in the region, particularly in the field of economics.

Departure From Abu Dhabi

JN3001100293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jan (WAKH)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and his accompanying delegation left Abu Dhabi today following a short visit of several hours to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], at the conclusion of a tour of a number of states in the region.

During his visit to the UAE, the Turkish prime minister met with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He also held talks with a number of senior officials on ways to promote bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, and reviewed the situation in the region and the Middle East and current international issues of mutual concern.

Yemen

Salih Receives Saudi Minister, King Fahd Message

JN3001123893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, education minister of sisterly Saudi Arabia. The Saudi minister conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on issues that concern the two sisterly countries and the progress of talks in the experts' committee on the Yemeni-Saudi border. The message also deals with ways to strengthen fraternal relations and expand their horizons in the interests of the two neighborly fraternal peoples—the Yemeni and Saudi—as well as Arab and Islamic solidarity.

The brother president stressed, during the meeting, our country's concern with reinforcing fraternal bilateral relations and bringing them to new horizons to achieve the hopes and aspirations of the people in the Republic of Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The president also stressed concern with strengthening Arab and Islamic solidarity to serve the objectives of our Arab and Islamic nation, achieve their high interests, and reinforce their ability to face challenges.

Education Minister Muhammad al-Ja'ifi and Saudi Ambassador in Sanaa 'Ali al-Qutaybi attended the meeting.

Tribesmen Reportedly Kidnap Canadian Businessman

NC2901193093 Paris AFP in English 1807 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Sanaa, Jan 29 (AFP) - Yemeni tribesmen were holding a Canadian shipping executive hostage Friday, saying they would release him if authorities turn over the killer of a fellow tribesman, reliable sources said Friday.

Mike Schmitz, an official of the Sterling Air Services, a shipping and freight company, was kidnapped last weekend while travelling from Aden to Sanaa, the Yemeni sources said.

They said the German-born Schmitz was being held by members of the Hada tribe near the village of Zarajah, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Sanaa.

The tribesmen want authorities to hand over a man suspected of killing a Hada last month in a land dispute, they said.

Saddam Husayn Chairs Meeting of Commanders

JN0102150893 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 1, INA—President Saddam Husayn commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces has today presided over a meeting comprising General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid director of Military Industry Commission, General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir assistant of the army chief-of-staff, Air Marshal Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan commander of Air Force and Air Defence and a number of Air Force officers.

UN Envoy Urges 'Reasonable, Balanced' U.S. Policy

JN3001084693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, has urged the new U.S. Administration to adopt a reasonable and balanced stand toward Iraq. He said that reasonable and balanced solutions will satisfy all parties, including Iraq.

In a statement to AL-'IRAQ newspaper published here today, Hamdun said that the recent U.S. aggression against Iraq has extracted reactions and questions as to the legitimacy of this aggressive act. Hamdun noted that everybody knows that the two no-fly zones imposed on Iraq are not based on the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Iraq's UN permanent representative called for understanding Iraq's position which calls for dialogue and negotiations, as well as for not resorting to force.

Regarding the export of Iraqi oil, Hamdun said: There is nothing new in this regard.

Notes 'Somewhat Positive' Signals

JN0102095193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, has asserted that there are somewhat positive signals coming from the new U.S. Administration.

In an interview with the "People's Talk" program, screened by Baghdad television last night, he added: We cannot be certain whether the signals are positive or not unless we see a first step that will confirm good faith toward our people.

In light of the political developments and Iraq's compliance with UN resolutions, he added, one cannot remain silent on the continued unjust blockade, which represents an example of arbitrary behavior toward an independent, sovereign nation.

Hamdun asked the world community to reconsider its view of the Security Council and its organizations, because the United States is in full control of everything, and this is what makes it oppose the interests and security of other nations.

He added that the new U.S. Administration can, if it wants, restore some balance to the Security Council in its attitude toward Iraq and other Arab issues.

Iraq's permanent UN representative also reiterated that Iraq has declared, and still declares to the current U.S. Administration in particular, its willingness to undertake a balanced, fair implementation of Security Council resolutions. He added: We have to wait for a reaction.

Hamdun said he thinks the current U.S. Administration is inclined toward peaceful dialogue and avoiding wars and the use of military force. This is what we—as Arabs and Iraqis—have always wanted.

Hamdun noted that changes in the U.S. position toward any issue in general do not take place easily and suddenly, adding that things require active efforts to explain a just cause in a relatively calm atmosphere.

He added that despite Zionist propaganda, world and U.S. public opinion has started to understand Iraq's just cause and demand lifting the blockade and encouraging Iraq to cooperate with the international family.

Iraq's permanent UN envoy said: What attracts attention in the international arena, particularly in the U.S. arena, is the use of double standards and how the United States implements resolutions toward Iraq, Libya, and Palestine in a way different from that toward the Zionist entity.

Answering a question on the Zionist lobby's role in striking Iraq and trying to isolate it, Hamdun said that there have been many attempts by these parties to cloud the picture of Iraq and harm it and deceive world public opinion. This requires enormous efforts to expose these attempts.

Nizar Hamdun added that many UN and Special Commission officials have confirmed that Iraq has implemented the greater part of its most important commitments toward UN resolutions, and that UN members do not have doubts concerning Iraq's implementation of the remaining part of its commitments.

Concluding, Nizar Hamdun stressed the importance of the Security Council's cooperation with Iraq to create confidence and reassurance on the part of Iraq concerning the method the resolutions are implemented and the mutual commitments that meet the legitimate needs of the Iraqi people.

'Aziz Comments on Imprisoned Britons, UN Sanctions

LD3101105293 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0943 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Iraq today hinted that it might be prepared to free two jailed Britons in return for the unfreezing of Iraqi assets in Britain.

Tariq 'Aziz, the Deputy Prime minister, said in a British TV interview from Baghdad that if the Government released to Iraq the "hundreds of millions of dollars" now frozen in this country then "it would be very natural that the Iraqi government would show sympathy to the difficulties of two or three British citizens".

Paul Ride, 33, a caterer from Walthamstow, north-east London, is serving seven years for entering Iraq illegally, and Michael Wainwright, 42, a joiner from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was jailed for ten years for the same offence.

Mr 'Aziz was asked on the BBC Breakfast with Frost programme whether they would review the cases of Mr Ride and Mr Wainwright.

He said: "We did address such matters in the past in a positive manner, but the British Government has not shown any positive attitude towards Iraq and the plight and hardships of the Iraqi people.

"We have hundreds of millions of dollars frozen by the British Government. Why should not they allow us to buy medicine from your own companies to cure our own children?

"If they show some humanitarian sympathy towards Iraq that would encourage our Government and our people to show a similar humanitarian sympathy. A humanitarian attitude has to be a two-way street.

"We have money in your country. We are ready to use that money by buying food and medicine for the Iraqi people. It is our money and it has been frozen unjustly.

"If the British Government shows sympathy towards the hardship of the Iraqi people then of course, it would be very natural that the Iraqi Government would show sympathy to the difficulties of two or three British citizens."

Earlier, Mr 'Aziz, asked whether Iraq planned to attack Kuwait again, said: "We do not have such intentions."

But he claimed that Iraq had already implemented 90 percent of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He said: "We did not seek confrontation with President Bush. That was his own policy. With the new US administration we would like to open a new chapter. We would like to have normal relations with the US.

"What happened in the past, which was unfortunate, was that the Bush administration deliberately obscured the degree of implementation because it wanted to use that as a political tool to destabilise the Government of Iraq.

"If an objective assessment takes place about the degree of implementation by Iraq of the resolutions of the Security Council, any fair observer would realise that a great deal has been implemented.

"But that was deliberately obscured and confused because they wanted to continue the sanctions, the harassment and isolation against Iraq."

Iraq has been hostile to UN resolutions covering checks to ensure that it does not develop weapons of mass destruction. The United States and its allies are insisting on full compliance before economic sanctions can be lifted.

Mr 'Aziz said that Iraq had implemented 90 percent of its obligations. "But that was obscured by the governments of the US and Britain. That is not professional.

"We want the new US administration, as well as the British Government, to keep their hostilities against the government of Iraq aside and not to confuse it with US business."

'Aziz Views French, U.S. Relations, No-Fly Zones

JN2901195593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1853 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Paris, 29 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, has called on France to abandon the policies set for it by the Bush administration and to engage Iraq in direct dialogue.

In an interview with LE FIGARO published today, 'Aziz stated that Iraq wants to start a new chapter in its relations with France. He wants these relations to be based on mutual respect and interests, and international law.

By adopting an anti-Iraq posture, 'Aziz asserted, France has sustained considerable losses, both politically and economically.

He regretted that the present French Government should have abandoned the excellent relations it had with Iraq prior to the Gulf events. 'Aziz deplored the fact that France took an anti-Iraq line and tagged along behind the Bush administration in the aggression against Iraq. He noted, however, that France was not involved in the missile attack on the al-Rashid Hotel. 'Aziz warned that the effort being pursued by the U.S., British, and French Governments to weaken Iraq could result in serious regional instability. Iraq, he added, is a significant regional power, the undermining of which would create complications. The Gulf today is not any more secure than it was before 1990, 'Aziz noted.

He reiterated the illegitimacy of the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq and pointed out that they were not decreed by UN resolutions. The imposition of the no-fly zones, he indicated, were unilateral actions taken by the United States, Britain, and France by way of interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs, dissecting it, and reintroducing the old colonialist order.

Asked about relations between Iraq and the new U.S. Administration, 'Aziz said Iraq has set out its position clearly, and that the ball is now in the other side's court. Iraq, he added, is ready to talk about an objective application of UN Security Council resolutions in accordance with the UN Charter and international law, subject to its sovereignty and national security being reckoned with.

Ramadan Discusses Raids, Clinton, Other Issues

NC2901213093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Report on an interview with Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan by Baghdad correspondent al-Sayyid al-Mallah, at Ramadan's office in Baghdad on 18 January]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi vice president and the country's number two man, is a political and military figure of rare frankness and directness in answering thorny questions by reporters, even if such frankness provokes an international crisis, just as when he told me that Kuwait was Iraqi and will remain Iraqi. He announced this not later than six months after the end of the Gulf war and it caused Kuwait to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council and appeal for succor. Now in the tense, stormy situation fraught with the worst possibilities as a result of renewed attacks on Iraq by the United States and its two allies, Britain and France, I found no better person to have a dialogue with than Taha Yasin Ramadan.

I asked him why Iraq was refusing to implement UN Security Council resolutions, or rather the resolutions of the United States, which hides behind the Security Council. I told him that the Arab and Islamic public were wondering why the Iraqi leadership was being so hardline when afterward it was going to comply with all what was asked of it. This, I said, would have a negative impact on the overall Iraqi stance with respect to steadfastness and defiance of the forces of global arrogance. I asked if the hardline position of the past two weeks could be attributed to a wager on a vacuum of power in the U.S. Administration—something which proved to be unsound. I asked him: Why did you accept air exclusion zones north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32d? Why did you later reject this exclusion? Have the Iraqi people not suffered enough during the past two years as a result of the economic embargo, considering that the Iraqis, like any other nation, cannot live on slogans and principles forever?

I wondered: Won't the atmosphere of war and the current events bring back divisions to the Arab and Islamic worlds, especially now that signs are appearing that attempts will be made to close Arab ranks? What was Iraq's position on Egypt, Iran, Turkey? What was its position on Jordan following the purported change in King Husayn's attitude and the significance of such a change in view of Jordan's vital role as the chief, indeed perhaps the only, outlet for Iraq to the world?

Let us now begin the dialogue:

As I have said, my meeting with the Iraqi vice president occurred on the morning following the bombardment of the al-Rashid Hotel. The first question was about this event and the motive behind it. Why strike Iraq again?

[Ramadan] He said: I do not believe there is anything mysterious about this battle, even if there was some mystery at the beginning. Both before and after 17 January 1991, the motive behind all the given reasons and justifications was to strike at Iraq's capabilities. All the slogans which were raised at that time to justify this action have collapsed. All the declared reasons have collapsed, including their presence (the U.S. forces and their allies) on Arab territory on the pretext of defending Saudi Arabia, driving the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and finally overthrowing the Iraqi leadership. What was intended by overthrowing the Iraqi leadership was to bring in an alternative and subservient leadership, as they have succeeded, very regrettably, in doing in more than one Arab country. The objectives of the aggression were known from the start even if they escaped the notice of some people, with and without a reason. Now, however, the objective has become clear.

Even while saying they were opposed to fragmenting Iraq, the coalition countries, the United States, Britain, and France, announced the partition of Iraq in accordance with lines of latitude and longitude and declared that Iraqi planes were forbidden to fly. I ask: Can sovereignty be divided? Is there such a thing as separate land, sea, and air sovereignty, or are they all one sovereignty? At the same time that they are raising the slogan of supporting Iraq's unity, they actually are implementing a partition on ugly ethnic and sectarian foundations.

As you know, we regard all UN Security Council resolutions as unfair and unjust, flagrantly using a double standard. Every citizen knows—I do not accept that there are people who do not know—that some rulers are subservient agents who repeat what Bush says. The examples of the use of a double standard have become clear and are being pointed out by ordinary people. Still, despite this, Iraq dealt with this situation because of certain considerations connected with the current circumstances and the nation's and the entire world's conditions. It did not do it out of conviction. Iraq's partition by lines of latitude and longitude is a U.S., British, and French resolution. We reject it. Our rejection is not merely implied. We made an announcement to the effect. We said we will confront it at a time and place of our choosing and in an appropriate way. When Bush decided on declaring the exclusion zone four months ago, he already intended to carry out an aggression. The presidential election was at its height and he sensed the weakness of his electoral position.

The truth is that the Iraqi leadership did not want to give him an opportunity to do anything. The leadership was clear, however, in its rejection of this situation. Today we see that preventing Iraqi overflights and Iraq's presence in the south or north is unacceptable. The presence of the coalition's forces and airplanes is an act of occupation and infringes on our sovereignty. I do not believe that anyone can ask: Why are you resisting the occupation?

The Western-Zionist-U.S. media are trying to give the people the impression that the air exclusion zone is a UN Security Council resolution. Of course, as I have said, I do not personally respect the Security Council's resolutions. The no-fly zone has no connection with the Security Council. A Security Council spokesman has stated that this decision has no connection with the Council, but was a decision made by the coalition. This clearly demonstrates that there were aggressive intentions and motives right from the start. The situation is not as some Arab rulers tried to portray it by speaking of the defense of Kuwait. Where are these rulers when it comes to defending the Palestinian cause and the resolutions issued in connection with it? Still they adhere to the Security Council's resolutions, which insist that the Iraqi people must starve. They are proud that they are committed to international legality.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: The battle is clearer now than before, and the hostile intentions are evident. We are saying that the recent raids deprived the United States and the other Western allied enemies of all their cards and exposed some Arab rulers, indeed if their nakedness formerly had been covered. We believe that it is shameful for an Arab official to express regret at what happened. It is better for him to remain silent or say what must indeed be said in such situations. I believe that the raids of 13 and 17 January created a more enlightened popular Arab reaction than in the earlier stage. These raids served our cause, confronted political and popular movements with their responsibilities, and facilitated the task of mobilizing the masses. We are now at a fateful and critical stage.

We are saying that there can be no backing down from Iraq's sovereignty over land, sea, and air, regardless of the cost. We previously said that we are willing to hold a dialogue in order to reach understanding on all the issues connected with UN Security Council resolutions and ways of implementing them. We believe that the use of force to solve problems is proof of impotence and a failure of political logic. Even their method of lying has become exposed. The factory that was hit in the recent raids and which was said to be a chemical industries [as published] center previously was visited several times by inspectors. If it had been proven a nuclear facility, it would have been demolished. They have finished their inspection of everything connected with nuclear industries; they announced this at the time. They even went so far as to say that the rocket which hit the al-Rashid Hotel was perhaps placed there by the Iraqi leadership to blow up the hotel. This claim shows you to what level the enemies have sunk. Fortunately, there was this large number of correspondents in the hotel and it happened that a U.S. television network filmed the incident. I believe that hate blinded Bush and his aides. It was hate which made him carry out this act. I believe this act to be another step toward their demise and disgrace and proof that Iraq is right and that our nation will triumph with God's assistance.

We feel more reassured now after the air raids, because they helped reveal all the enemy's intentions and have laid its cards on the table. True, the media campaign is immense—we know that the Western and U.S. media are full of tricks—but if you follow many television channels, you will notice a detectable change.

We work at the political level and at the same time defend our lands. We are not outside the realm of responsibility, and therefore do not act irresponsibly. We are aware of the Western media's capabilities and falsification skills. When we say that we reject the violation of Iraqi airspace, and when they raise an issue like sending "inspection" committees, we try to be as flexible as possible, without letting this encroach on the issue of violating our airspace. This is not a retraction. The air embargo was not imposed by the UN Security Council. Hence, we reject it. They are trying to stir other issues in a provocative manner, and Iraq responds in its own way. We cannot go back on things like that.

[Al-Mallah] Mr. Vice President, in fact it is not a matter of resolutions, either by the Security Council or America; it is a question of power. Is Iraq actually willing to turn these resolutions into ink on paper, as Israel does? Israel tears the UN resolutions apart and no one brings it to account.

[Ramadan] Just because the United States is strong—and we did not say it is not—are we expected to let it impose its will and do what it wants? Is this patriotic and Islamic logic?

[Al-Mallah] We did not say that. But we have to realize the power of our opponent and the balance of power to prevent the opponent from achieving his goal.

[Ramadan] There is no balance; there is hegemony, arrogance, and U.S. monopoly on world power. It is just a transitional stage, however; they will collapse just like the Soviet Union did. Their collapse will be more dreadful. Logically speaking, the bigger the man is, the more modest, fair, and enduring he should be regarding other people's mistakes. He should not encroach on other people's freedoms or bear down on them. If every strong state overpowers a weaker one and the weaker state surrenders, it would be the law of the jungle, which we reject. We will defend our land regardless of the price.

[Al-Mallah] Did Iraq rely on a different stand on the part of Clinton's administration?

[Ramadan] We do not wager on anything. The leadership that wagers on the unknown is not perceptive. We hope the Clinton administration will be different from Bush's. However, we will not build our plans and programs on the presumption that change is inevitable. It is only logical to assume that Clinton cannot be identical to Bush, even if both belonged to the same party. How about when they belong to different parties? Until this moment, we have not found anything doubtful about Clinton's remarks, despite their negative aspects. We appreciate the circumstance in which these remarks were made. But it is very clear that Clinton does not have that personal vendetta.

[Al-Mallah] How do you explain Clinton's backing down on his statement that he agrees to dialogue with the Iraqi leadership provided that it complies with all the UN resolutions?

[Ramadan] We do not take that into account where Clinton is concerned; he can still get himself involved in a certain situation. When he made that statement he was not directly in charge of the administration. Moreover, you have to take into account the pressures to which the administration is subjected. This matter is not very vital when it comes to evaluating what the new President will be like. We appreciate the principle of dialogue and take it as the opposite of what Bush used to say. Clinton's mere belief that dialogue is the first approach implies goodwill.

[Al-Mallah] What is the situation between Iraq and Egypt at present?

[Ramadan] Egypt played a big role in the Gulf war. As an Iraqi official I refrain from talking about that; every Arab knows that role very well. That role was totally unexpected. Nevertheless, if the door is opened for solidarity, we will not hesitate. Hence, this question should be posed to the Egyptian side.

[Al-Mallah] Why was the al-Rashid Hotel attacked? Did the attack on this hotel—when it was full of Islamic delegations—serve the objective of Bush and the allies? Did it not anger the entire world?

[Ramadan] Did Bush have a noble and honest objective to make him search for the honorable way? If his objective was to commit aggression against and occupy the territories of others, then was it an honorable objective? If this were the case, then why did even Britain and France declare after the attack that it was a U.S. affair? Although they said that they supported the attack, they did not take part in it. The strike was really shameful. Two years after his aggression and with only two days left before leaving the White House, Bush was pained by the fact that the Iraqi people were still alive and President Saddam Husayn was still present and strong. Therefore, he wanted to undertake this action. His hatred blinded him. Do you believe that Bush thought of what effect his action would have on world public opinion, and specifically Islamic public opinion, before carrying it out? In his actions, Bush was reviving the old crusades in an ugly way. This is extremely dangerous. The U.S. Administration also does not care about public opinion because it has a strong media capable of distorting the truth and influencing public opinion to a great extent.

[Al-Mallah] How long will the Iraqi people continue to shoulder this suffering as a result of the economic siege? It is observed that the effects of the siege have started to become clearer now. Are slogans and principles enough to compensate the people for this suffering?

[Ramadan] Making a living does not push people to sell their honor. Making a living has caused some Arab rulers implement what Bush wanted to the letter. But the citizens in these countries are getting hungrier. As for us, we are strengthening our capabilities. I say that there is a difference despite the suffering. We at least have the action of rebuilding and reconstructing all that was destroyed and of starting new projects. We do not take into account whether the Americans will take pity on us and lift the siege. We are working to provide the Iraqi individual's basic needs and those of the country. But neither high prices nor economic pressure are similar to the suffering in some Arab countries.

[Al-Mallah] Regarding the situation in Iraq's Kurdish north and in southern Iraq. There is a Kurdish semi-government. Is this not the start of the partitioning of Iraq?

[Ramadan] You can ask the Arab rulers who are boasting that they are against the partitioning of Iraq. Anyhow, the situation in the north is temporary and cannot last. The time will come to get things back to normal. As for the south, the rebellion is over. Is there a government in the south?

[Al-Mallah] But there is a no fly-zone for the Iraqi planes to encourage the opposition forces and prevent attacks on them.

[Ramadan] We are now fighting and are confident of defeating any schemes.

[Al-Mallah] What is the nature of the relationship now between Iraq and Iran?

[Ramadan] Good relations can be established when there are good intentions. But, to a large degree, we have not felt that Iran has any good intentions, either toward Iraq or toward Arab security as a whole. It is in our interest for Iran to transcend this if it is really opposed to Zionism, the United States, and aggression, because it itself is the target of aggression and will not be allowed to become a power.

[Al-Mallah] What about Turkey?

[Ramadan] Turkey's stand is already known. It did not oppose the United States and is a NATO member. But the possibility of finding better relations remains.

[Al-Mallah] Some statements made by King Husayn were interpreted in a way that gave the impression that Jordan was against the Iraqi leadership. What is the truth of the matter?

[Ramadan] They were mere interpretations. Relations between the two countries are normal and we take into account the role of the media and intelligence services in splitting ranks. It is a plot. It is not only a military plot, but involves various aspects and means.

[Al-Mallah] Do we infer from this that relations are not as strong as they were during the Gulf war, but not as bad as the media depict?

[Ramadan] Yes.

[Al-Mallah] Do you wish to add anything else?

[Ramadan] I thank you and I wish you success in your mission. The mission of the honest media is a difficult one. But when a person feels that he is doing an honest and good job, then this gives him the incentive to continue his work.

[Al-Mallah] I do not hide from you the fact that many in Egypt warned me against coming to Iraq out of fear for my life. We in Egypt are now more "relaxed" than we were in the 1950's and 1960's. Hence, any situation that brings war or raids worries the people now that they are not living in the era of revolutionary zeal. Anyhow, we came to Baghdad, and I and my colleagues took our share of the risks in the al-Rashid Hotel when it was attacked by U.S. missiles.

Reportage on Arms Inspection Teams' Activities

Bomb Possible in 5-7 Years

PM2901151593 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 27 Jan 93 p 15

[Alberto Stabile report on interview with UN arms inspector Maurizio Zifferero: "Germans and Italians Armed Iraq"]

[Text] Baghdad—He will not give any names. The list of 80 privileged suppliers who helped Iraq build up its nuclear program, so brusquely interrupted by the Gulf War, remains top secret. The Iraqis, who, after a lot of denying and sidestepping, claim to be willing to cooperate, still have the last word on the company names. But he admits that Europe's role, and in particular that of Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, was decisive in forming Saddam's atomic program, and certainly more important than that played by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Maurizio Zifferero, the Italian nuclear chemist whose job it is to unveil all aspects of Iraq's most important military secret, is a gentleman of about 60 who rejects the image of supersleuth. He prefers to talk about his difficult task as though it were a normal occurrence in the quiet life of a scientist. Just a little different, a little more lively than others.

While, on the one hand, the Iraqis have made it known that the committee headed by Zifferero, with that list of 80 companies in its hands, has already shed light on 90 percent of their suppliers, the Italian scientist, for his part, is a lot more cautious. "It is an exaggeration," he said, meeting with us in a room in the Sheraton Hotel allocated to the UN medical team. And he explained that among those 80 firms there are 40 whose names were supplied by officials from Baghdad's nuclear board. Names which, in fact, turned out to be "unimportant," such as those of an air conditioner firm or an electrical cable supplier. "Of course, there is no reason why a nuclear plant should not have an air conditioner. But we are interested in equipment designed for producing the atomic bomb, such as certain special steels, and the so-called dual-purpose plants, civilian and military, which should only be exported after a check is made on the final destination." And it is over these suppliers that the Iraqis have finally promised to cooperate. "We have found," Zifferero explained, "100 tonnes of very special steel, essential for the construction of centrifuges, which in turn are needed to enrich uranium. We immediately told the Iraqis: Prove to us that you really want to cooperate with the United Nations by telling us who supplied these to you. Silence. Then last month, a minister let us know that they would tell us. Let's hope that they keep their word."

[Stabile] In the great Gulf plot, it is difficult to distinguish the truth from distortions. What are your views on the Za'faraniyah factory on the outskirts of Baghdad, which was bombed and destroyed ten days ago? Is it true, as the Americans claim, that the plant was part of the nuclear process or are the Iraqis right when they say that it was only an innocent metal section factory?

[Zifferero] They are both right to some degree. That was one of the factories on which the nuclear program relied. Its task was to manufacture mass separators used in the production of enriched uranium. After the war we visited it, and we did indeed establish that the factory had been converted for civilian manufacturing purposes. Obviously there is nothing to prevent its having been readapted for nuclear purposes thereafter. That is why I say that they are both right.

[Stabile] But was its destruction a necessary measure or not?

[Zifferero] It was a radical measure, inspired by military and political criteria which it is not my place, as a technician, to judge. I can say, however, that there was an alternative to destruction: namely, keeping a watch on the production and on the factory through constant inspection by us—a solution which we will have to adopt for other sites, because you cannot expect to destroy everything. [Zifferero ends].

The Iraqis, Zifferero recounts, had almost succeeded in creating a bomb of a type similar to the one which exploded at Nagasaki. "Their program was rudimentary, and at the same time it was sophisticated." They were moving in two directions: enriched uranium and plutonium. In two or three years' time the bomb would have gone into production, at a rate of one or two a year. The investment was "a few billion dollars: Let's say, more than one and less than ten." It is difficult to say whom to thank for this. The scientist doubts whether there was any "transfer" of knowledge from the East. "The way the process was set up was undoubtedly the fruit of local minds. Indeed, Iraq has some of the finest-quality scientists. But of great importance was the know-how supplied by individual industries at the Iraqi Government's request. We are asking our hosts exactly who they were."

[Stabile] But while it is true that such an advanced level of planning cannot be improvised, by the same token you do not lose it overnight. So what might happen in the absurd hypothesis that Iraq gets its atomic bomb off the ground again? How long would it take them to produce it?

[Zifferero] On condition that the embargo is lifted and no more inspections are carried out, if it moves into top gear and is able to rely on unlimited financial resources, in five to seven years, Iraq could have the atomic bomb.

Information Minister Comments

PM2901160293 Paris LE FIGARO in French 28 Jan 93 p 4

[Remi Favret report: "Iraq: Controversy Surrounding UN Inspector"]

[Text] Baghdad—There is controversy surrounding Maurizio Zifferero, head of the 17th UN nuclear inspection mission in Baghdad. Several American media sources accuse him of having favored Iraq and allege that when he was director of the Italian Atomic Energy Agency in the seventies, he authorized some enterprises in his country to participate in Iraq's nuclear program.

The man in question denies that, stating that nobody at the time suspected the existence of a secret program. Although he knows the Iraqis well, Maurizio Zifferero says he is merely using this knowledge to serve the mission entrusted to him in the framework of UN Security Council resolution 187—to verify the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear program.

This verification is now coming to an end. The successive teams sent by the UN special commission have seen what they were asking to see. "We cannot rule out the possibility of the existence of something we have not discovered," according to Mr. Zifferero who now works for the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna. "If there was one chance in thousand, we would certainly not overlook it."

In December, after refusing for a long time, the Iraqis gave the inspectors a list of about 40 foreign companies who have collaborated on the Iraqi bomb project. The IAEA and the special commission have identified almost as many, recognized in retrospect by the Iraqis. There are still about 10 companies to be identified: In the framework of the seduction effort aimed at the new U.S. Administration, Baghdad has decided to show its goodwill.

Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told us: "Iraq will supply the names of a few remaining companies to the United Nations. There should be no problem."

In the two years since the Gulf War, however, there have been many problems hampering the work of the UN nuclear, chemical, biological, and ballistics inspectors. "Each time the United States has tried to use the work of the inspectors for political purposes to make accusations against Iraq and justify sanctions, there have been incidents," Mr. Hammadi admitted. Everybody remembers the epic duels between David Kay, head of the previous nuclear missions, and Iraqi officials. Mr. Kay and his men had pursued trucks in the Iraqi desert which were trying to flee an inspected site carrying calutrons—apparatus used to enrich uranium for military purposes. During surprise visits to ministries, he seized secret documents, scandalizing the Iraqis who kept his inspectors prisoner for around 20 days on a parking lot in July.

David Kay has become Baghdad's bete noire. Accused of being linked to the CIA—which would not be surprising in view of the delicate nature of the mission entrusted to him—he offended Baghdad by a very offensive concept of the investigation. It must be said that he produced results: He forced the Iraqis to back down three times.

Stake

Although he has left his job, Mr. Kay is now stepping up his public statements against Iraq in the press. It was he, among others, who expressed doubts about the partiality of his Italian successor. This little war has a clear stake—the lifting of sanctions against Iraq depends on the respect for its obligations in the disarmament sphere.

"The reality is that the Iraqi nuclear program is now nonexistent," Minister Hammadi said, "and that the United Nations will sooner or later have to recognize that and lift the sanctions."

Douglas Englund, the coordinator of the special commission, who is based in Bahrain, has arrived in Baghdad for discussions with the Iraqis on the following phase: permanent monitoring which should enable the United Nations to verify that Iraq is not resuming its banned programs.

The continuation of these discussions and the special commission's attitude will be the immediate barometer of the crisis after the new U.S. President takes office. Iraq is proclaiming its goodwill. But, what if the UN experts were to offend the acute sense of sovereignty which Iraq has in the final inspections? "We would oppose it in the same way," the information minister warns.

No List of Nuclear Suppliers

PM0102095593 Rome AVANTI! in Italian 28 Jan 93 p 12

[Unattributed report on undated ANSA telephone interview with UN weapons inspector in Iraq Maurizio Zifferero]

[Text] The Iraqis never gave IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] experts any list of nuclear materiel suppliers, and what was considered a "goodwill gesture" on Saddam Husayn's part arose from an involuntary misunderstanding on the part of foreign journalists in Baghdad. IAEA Deputy Director Maurizio Zifferero, aged 62, who is in Iraq heading a team of eight nuclear experts, told ANSA yesterday. Reached by telephone at the Baghdad hotel where he is staying, Professor Zifferero also said that the article in which the NEW YORKER weekly accused him a couple of days ago of playing for Saddam is probably the result of a "certain personal animosity" on the part of one of the inspectors who preceded him. Zifferero then added: "On the list of suppliers issue, I think there was a misunderstanding with the journalists who were here. I never claimed that the Iraqis gave us a list. I merely said that during our inspections, we discovered evidence that a certain number of firms, most of whose exports to Iraq were probably perfectly legitimate, were taking part in Iraq's nuclear research." "Furthermore," Zifferero added, "when discussing their nuclear program with us, the Iraqis mentioned a certain number of other firms to which they had turned in order to obtain supplies or other forms of contract." "Adding the company names contained in the documents handed over by the Iraqis to those of other firms which we discovered during our inspections," the IAEA deputy director added, "we came up with a given total. At that point, the Iraqis said to us: 'Now you have more than 90 percent, or almost 90 percent, of all those from whom we have sought to obtain supplies.'"

"This is an Iraqi declaration," Zifferero stressed; "now, here, the press are interpreting it to mean that the Iraqis gave us a list. But that is not true. These are old data which we gathered a few months ago." Zifferero was asked what his team would do if they were in possession of the complete list of Iraq's nuclear materiel suppliers and if they would make it known. "The firms' names," he answered, "are contained in the inspection reports which are distributed to all the IAEA member governments, and a copy is also sent to the UN Security Council. They are fairly public documents, inasmuch as there is ready access to them. And judging by what happens in the United States, for instance, the day after we have sent them the documents are already in the hands of the press, because they are distributed by the Security Council and are in practice common knowledge." As for the possibility of Italian firms being included, Zifferero answered that the list contains "firms from all over the world. We do not divulge their names to the press, because the governments have first to make investigations in order to ascertain whether they have exported materiel in violation of national laws. We can only indicate the names and the object of the transaction. Then it becomes the governments' task to establish whether there has been any violation of the law. We cannot lay blame at anyone's door without first becoming thoroughly acquainted with the facts."

Japanese Tools Allegedly Used

OW3001104393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1027 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 30 KYODO—International Atomic Energy Agency officials confirmed Saturday [30 January] that precision instruments imported from Japan have been used in Iraq's nuclear weapons development.

Officials participating in the inspection of Iraqi nuclear facilities said the Japanese-made tools were indispensable for the production of experimental systems, though not vital for the development of nuclear weapons.

The officials told KYODO NEWS SERVICE the instruments included metal surface grinding tools used to manufacture uranium concentration equipment, measuring devices and high-speed cameras.

They said less than 10 Japanese companies were involved in the affair but declined to identify them or their products.

The officials said the Japanese Government has already been informed of the names of corporations involved.

They said the Iraqi Government has refused to disclose how the instruments were imported from Japan.

The officials said German and British enterprises also provided technological cooperation for the Iraqi nuclear project, some of them exporting necessary equipment to Iraq under false declarations.

The eight-member inspection team is scheduled to leave Iraq on Sunday after completing the initial phase of investigations.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Comments

JN3101210793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today told INA the following:

As of 25 January 1993, two inspection teams, one from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and the other from the UN Special Commission, visited Iraq. The two teams' missions were routine ones. The Iraqi authorities have provided both teams with all facilities, which enabled them to carry out their missions in accordance within the provisions of Resolution 687. On 31 January 1993, the IAEA team left Baghdad. Some of the members of the UN Special Commission team also left Baghdad on 29 January 1993 but a small number of them remained in Baghdad to follow up on some routine work.

The spokesman said that some of the statements attributed to the officials of the two teams might have created some confusion about the so-called suppliers lists and Iraq's position on this issue. The spokesman added that the IAEA and the Special Commission are acquainted with the basic information regarding this issue and that all equipment, as is known, have labels carrying the names of the producing companies. Moreover, several governments previously provided the IAEA and the Special Commission with the names of the companies that supplied Iraq with equipment.

The spokesman pointed out that Iraq previously explained its position on this issue to the Security Council in March 1992 and on other occasions and stressed the moral aspect of the issue. The spokesman also affirmed that within the framework of a constructive dialogue with the IAEA and the Special Commission, the Iraqi officials asked the inspection teams, which visited Iraq, to explain to the IAEA and the Special Commission their true demands on this issue without making any promises in this regard.

Complete List Not Given

NC3101190493 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Manama, Jan 31 (AFP) - Iraq still refuses to provide UN inspectors with a complete list of its nuclear suppliers, the team's leader said Sunday adding that Baghdad could still be hiding equipment to resume its program later.

"The Iraqis did not provide the list of their nuclear suppliers," said Maurizio Zifferero on arrival here from a week's mission to Iraq.

UN nuclear experts tried during their mission to obtain the names of suppliers, in a bid to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire .

"They want a (specific) questionnaire," on Iraq's nuclear program, he said.

Zifferero said a statement he made last week that the United Nations had the names of 80 foreign suppliers had been "misunderstood" by the media, and that it was "an old statement" already made during the last mission in December.

Information given by the Iraqis and collected by the United Nations had allowed the identification of the list of 80, he said.

The Iraqis insisted that the 80 accounted for 90 percent of the total list of foreign suppliers, said Zifferero, an Italian official of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The IAEA sought to obtain the complete list of nuclear suppliers to ensure that Iraq does not conceal elements to help it relaunch its nuclear program, he said.

"It is very possible the Iraqis are still hiding some important equipment or material. In that case, Iraq might start again," he said, underlining the need for long-term controls.

Zifferero leaves Monday [1 February] for IAEA Headquarters in Vienna.

UN Inspectors Placed 'Special Devices' at al-Nida' Facility

JN3101153593 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p 10

[Text] In a program broadcast last Saturday [23 January], television director Faysal al-Yasiri said that during their visit to the al-Nida' establishment, the UN insepctors placed special devices that emit signals to satellites. He noted that these signals guided the missiles that raided the establishment on 17 January. Al-Yasiri added that satellites monitoring Iraq are sending 12 pictures per minute. He promised to give other details in the next episode of his television program "The Everpresent Memory."

Russian Party Delegation Continues Visit

Meets Defense Minister

JN2901142993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, today received Ahmed Khalitov [name as received] , deputy chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], currently visiting Iraq.

They reviewed relations of friendship and cooperation between the LDP and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and their joint struggle against imperialism and its vicious objectives. The minister indicated the importance of reinforcing the struggle against all forms of domination and exploitation in the interest of global security and peace.

Mr. Khalitov expressed the solidarity of the Russian people with Iraq and their identification with the Iraqi people's just causes as they stand up against aggression. He called for the iniquitous embargo against the Iraqi people to be lifted.

Received by Trade Minister

JN3001135093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with Ahmed Khalitov [name as received], deputy chairman of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the evil objectives of the economic blockade and the Zionist U.S. Administration's persistence in using the weapon of bread to achieve mean political objectives seeking to harm people's sovereignty and independence. He pointed out the importance of bolstering struggle, rejecting all forms of control, hegemony, and exploitation, and enhancing peace, security, and sovereignty around the world.

Ahmed Khalitov expressed the Russian people's solidarity with and support for Iraq and its just causes. He affirmed that his party will work constantly to lift the iniquitous blockade imposed on the people of Iraq and to release its frozen assets to finance its purchases of food and medicine.

Communique Issued

JN3101155793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—The Russian delegation for friendship and solidarity with the Iraqi people has praised the Iraqis' courage, sacrifices, and confrontation of the flagrant U.S.-imperialist-Zionist aggression, which was not only aimed at striking Iraq and its strong structure, but also at destroying the values, principles, and cultural light of nations and peoples that are opposed to all forms of oppression, colonialism, and subservience.

In a joint communique signed today by Ahmed Khalitov [name as received], head of the Russian delegation; and Dr. Muzhir al-Duri, chairman of the Iraqi-Russian Friendship Society, the two sides called for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and ending interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and attempts to impose hegemony and trusteeship on it.

The joint communique praises the campaign of construction achieved in Iraq in record time, stressing that this process represents a challenge to all the infidel and hostile forces which want to harm Iraq.

The two sides also highly valued the Russian Government's recent position, its rejection of the use of force, and its call for peaceful dialogue to solve outstanding problems between Iraq and the United States.

The communique explains that the Iraqi-Russian Friendship Society, which expresses the Iraqi public opinion, values the Russian Liberal Democratic Party's position, its distinguished activity in denouncing aggression on Iraq, and its efforts to convey a true picture to the friendly Russian people. The two sides also assessed the active contacts being conducted by the Liberal Democratic Party with Iraq's leadership and people. The communique then highly values the support of the Russian forces and figures for Iraq in official circles, as well as the Russian parliaments' call for backing the Iraqi people's cause in official Russian and international circles to lift the economic blockade and restore normal relations between the Iraqi and Russian peoples.

Palestinian Group's Leader Visits, Meets 'Aziz

JN3001201193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and official in charge of the Arab Liberation Forces Bureau, today received Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and his delegation. During the meeting, discussions dealt with the current situation in the Arab arena and the fierce imperialist-Zionist plotting and aggression to which Iraq and the Palestinian revolution are being subjected.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and the Palestinian revolution in its legitimate struggle to attain all legitimate historical rights.

Dr. Ghawshah expressed the Palestinian people's support for the Iraqi people in their resistance and steadfastness in the face of the forces of evil and aggression and their unjust blockade. He said: The steadfastness of our people in Iraq and their strong will and unwavering position are the best example for our Palestinian people and their Palestinian revolution, particularly for our people inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

Talks With Ramadan

JN3101163893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and vice president, has affirmed that Iraq is great through its leader, its people, its sacrifices, and its wealth, and is proving on battlefields every day that it is the people of civilizations, dignity, principles, and progress.

During his reception of Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], and his delegation, Ramadan said that the enemies of the Arab nation have never known the meaning of peace, which is based on law, international legitimacy, and peoples' right to their lands, sovereignty, and wealth. They, he added, want peace to be a surrender to their hostile, expansionist, and colonialist policy. He referred to the Zionist entity's hostile policy and its refusal to comply with Security Council resolutions and to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in Palestine and elsewhere. He also tackled the entity's continued policy of deportation, displacement of the Palestinian people, and occupation of new Arab territories.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added that the dangers of the hostile Zionist- imperialist-Atlantic alliance have been foiled through the Iraqis' understanding of the colonialist policy, their heroic steadfastness, and their adherence to their sovereignty, independence, and readiness for duel and sacrifices in order to maintain Iraq unified, free, and independent. The RCC member and vice president reiterated Iraq's support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's intifadah in their honorable struggle to regain their legitimate historical rights.

The secretary general of the PPSF expressed the Palestinian people's appreciation for the steadfastness of the Iraqis—their leader and people—and their challenge to all forms of aggression, conspiracy, and blockade, stressing that the Iraqis' militant position is an additional force for the Arab masses continued struggle to achieve their legitimate rights and also is a victory for the principles of right, justice, and sovereignty. The meeting was attended by the director of the Arab Liberation Forces Bureau.

Daily Accuses Turkish Premier of Blackmailing Gulf States

JN3001093793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has said that it is neither in the interest of Turkey nor its people that the Turkish president continue announcing his hostility toward Iraq and its leadership. In an article under the headline "The Turkish Aggressive Role Continues," AL-QADISIYAH says: All those who harbored animosity toward Iraq have fallen so badly cursed, defeated, and unregrettable.

The paper notes that Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel adopted the hard-line position adhering to the course of aggression against Iraq, while everybody recalls that he waged his election campaign by attacking Ozal on the grounds that he compromised Turkey's interests by participating in the alliance against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH noted that what is taking place in the Turkish political arena is not strange to Iraq or any observer, because this policy has adopted pressure, blackmail, and the pursuit of profits at the expense of what is principled and necessary for the interests of the two neighborly countries, Iraq and Turkey.

The paper says that Demirel's tour is a kind of investment in line with the official Turkish perception. Escalating the crisis and fabricating the recent attacks on Iraq by war criminal Bush motivated the symbols of the Turkish regime to look toward the Gulf, which harbored a Kuwaiti and Saudi fear that was exploited by more than one party in the form of economic and military deals to achieve this investment, or rather this blackmailing.

Further Press Criticism

JN3101092393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has said that Turkey's current policy and the statements made by Turkish officials, as well as their practices since the start of the aggression, confirm the political shortsightedness of these officials.

In an article published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH notes that the current official Turkish policy promotes neither the Turkish people's interests nor their historical ties with Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper adds that the Turkish rulers' arrows continue to target Iraq, as these rulers continue to launch them continuously to inflict harm on Iraq and to deepen the wound instead of allowing it to heal.

The paper affirms that the irresponsible positions of the Turkish president as well as his immense rancor and opportunism, given his acceptance to act as a servile stooge for colonialist powers, have prompted him to work as a scrap merchant seeking a fast buck, even if this is at the expense of the interests of his country and people.

Concluding its article, the paper says: As for Prime Minister Demirel's position, it is no better than his president's. This is because Demirel was quick to renege on his previous statements regarding an understanding of the situation, an improvement in bilateral ties, and alleged concern for safeguarding the historical ties as well as the common Iraqi-Turkish interests. He preferred the bribes and bags of money offered by the Hafar al-Batin allies in return for putting pressure on Iraq and fomenting problems, as has been evident during his current Gulf tour.

Arab League Informed of 27 Jan Airspace 'Violations'

JN3001120893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft have continued to violate its airspace and threaten Iraq's sovereignty, security, and national unity.

In a letter sent yesterday to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League said that on Wednesday, 27 January, U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace with 100 hostile sorties, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In his letter, Iraq's envoy enclosed a table detailing these violations. He also said that Iraq wishes to inform the secretary general and all Arab states of these regrettable facts. He asked that the letter be distributed to the member states.

28-29 Jan Incidents

JN0102105393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GNT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League has denounced the continued U.S., British, and French aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace, taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In two letters sent to the Arab League secretary general, he said that the aircraft carried out 198 sorties on 28-29 January, noting that this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The envoy added that these aircraft carried out 88 sorties on 28 January and 110 sorties on 29 January.

The Iraqi representative to the Arab League enclosed with his letters two detailed lists noting the areas and cities covered by the violations.

Saddam Orders Construction of Irrigation River

JN3101164293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the implementation of a fifth river—christened the al-Qadisiyah River—to make water available for half a million donums of agricultural land in four governorates: al-Najaf, al-Qadisiyah, al-Muthanna, and Dhi Qar.

This was disclosed to the INA by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to his excellency the president, who is in charge of the industry and oil sectors. The 105 km-long river would be 90 meters across at the surface and 64 meters across at its bed, and would have a drainage capacity of 250 cubic meters of sweet water per second. It would run from Nazim Abu-'Ashrah on the Euphrates in al-Qadisiyah subdistrict to the al-Sulaybat depression within al-Muthanna and Dhi Qar area limits.

Mujahidin of the Military Industrialization Organization and ancillary bodies, he added, have set about implementing the national campaign to complete the river in the exceptionally short period of one month.

Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan indicated that the project calls for digging a new 85 km-long canal and trimming a 20-km stretch of of the banks of al-Khasaf and al-'Atshan. The project also entails the construction of embankments along both banks of the river with a capacity of 4 million cubic meters of earth and a 68 km-long earth embankment at the edge of the al-Sulaybat depression with a capacity of 5 million cubic meters of earth.

Government Paper Rejects Talks With Iraqi Kurds

NC3001195193 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 30 (AFP) - An Iraqi Government paper rejected Saturday all dialogue with Kurdish leaders in the north of Iraq, calling them spies and agents of imperialism and Zionism.

"To open a dialogue with these traitors would simply mean to leave the door open to the spies and the agents of imperialism and Zionism," said a commentary written by the deputy editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH, Lutfi al-Khayyat.

"The colonialist West" was trying to impose this dialogue on the Kurds, he said.

The piece was a reaction to comments by several Iraqi university professors who said on television last week that Baghdad should "re-start a dialogue with the Kurds."

The negotiations with the Kurds controlling the north of Iraq have been stopped for a year, stalling specially over the border separating the province of Iraqi Kurdistan from the rest of the country.

Kurds demand a zone of 75,000 square kilometers (30,000 square miles) while Baghdad only recognizes some 50,000 square kilometers (20,000 square miles), excluding the important oil city of Karkuk.

In the meantime, Kurds have set up a parliament north of the 36th parallel in a no-fly zone imposed by the 1991 Gulf war allies to protect them from Iraqi attacks.

U.S. Paper Cited on Oil Agreements with European Companies

JN3001152993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] New York, 30 Jan (INA)—THE WALL STREET JOURNAL yesterday said that many European oil companies are secretly negotiating contracts with Iraq to exploit its huge oil reserves once the blockade is lifted.

The paper cites a foreign company representative in Baghdad as saying that some Western companies believe that dispatching food and medicine to Iraq may help them secure contacts with Iraqi officials.

The paper cites informed oil sources in Iraq as saying that the arrangements being discussed with the foreign companies include renting some Iraqi oil fields for periods up to 20 years. They said that other topics related to oil technology and direct oil sales are also being discussed. Meanwhile, a UN official says that the talks have indeed resulted in a number of agreements between foreign companies and Iraq without breaching the UN sanctions since the agreements will be implemented after the blockade is lifted.

In a report written by Peter Waldman from Baghdad and cited by an INA correspondent in New York, the paper indicates that U.S. companies have stayed away from these ongoing contacts. The paper says that at a time when the Iraqis prefer the contribution of U.S. companies, French, British, German, and Greek companies are conducting such contacts in Baghdad and European capitals.

Saddam Reportedly Offered Oil Field to U.S. for Relations

NC0102085993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Shalabi, head of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] How do you view Baghdad's efforts to open a new page in relations with Washington?

[Shalabi] This is typical of Saddam. He always tries to deal with foreign quarters to continue to persecute the Iraqi people. In the past, Saddam's regime depended on three factors to remain in power: foreign support, offering money on a wide scale, and terrorizing and criminally repressing the people. Now that foreign support has ceased and funds have begun to run out, he is left with terror to use. He now is trying to restore this foreign support. Saddam's attempts to restore relations with the United States under the Clinton administration began in November. Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's UN ambassador and former Iraqi ambassador to the United States, headed the project to restore and improve relations with the United States during the 1980s. This Nizar made attempts to contact the Clinton administration. He offered to allow them to exploit the Majnun Islands oil field in return for restoring relations. This is a big oil field in southern Iraq with an estimated reserve of 8 billion barrels. He offered this oil field to the United States, but the Clinton administration refused his offer.

During the congressional hearing to confirm his appointment, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher declared that he supports trying Saddam for crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. U.S. Vice President Al Gore said on U.S. television that he supports trying Saddam and his clique. U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin said U.S. policy calling for the implementation of UN resolutions means removing Saddam from power. Therefore, I do not believe the U.S. Administration will be deceived by Saddam's behavior and will not be dragged into supporting Saddam another time. The Clinton administration calls for applying human rights all over the world and for supporting democratic regimes. Saddam is far from this.

[Al-Jundi] Saddam Husayn's attempts to break the international coalition and to win the support of each state separately are continuing. The British Government today rejected an Iraqi offer to release two British citizens held in Iraq in return for the release of Iraqi funds frozen in British banks. A British Foreign Office spokesman stressed that his country is in no way prepared to conclude such a deal with Iraq. Do you believe Saddam will succeed in breaking the international alliance through these attempts?

[Shalabi] I believe Saddam will continue his attempts but will not succeed. Saddam's atrocities have shocked the international community. He invaded an independent Arab state, occupied it, and wiped it out of existence. Kuwait returned to existence only after the international coalition forces expelled Saddam from Kuwait. Saddam also committed genocide and crimes against humanity in Iraq and Kuwait. Before that, he invaded the Islamic Republic of Iran. Saddam now is trying to win the support of Western states and the Third World through economic enticements. A short while ago, I mentioned the Majnun Islands oil field, which Saddam offered to the United States. He offered the same oil field to France. Some French companies sent delegates to Iraq to negotiate on this subject. Saddam did not achieve any results despite the attempts by some French parties which have commercial interests. The French Government, however, categorically refused to deal with Saddam. Saddam's attempts also have reached the Third World. For example, he promised Sri Lanka that Iraq would buy all its tea from there. The Sri Lankan ambassador returned to Iraq in exchange for this offer. These successes by Saddam are minor, however, and will not affect the overall international position, which calls on Iraq to respect all UN resolutions. This includes Security Council Resolution 688, which asks Saddam to refrain from persecuting the Iraqi people.

[Al-Jundi] In view of Saddam's efforts to improve his image and restore relations with other states, does the Iraqi opposition intend to act to forestall such a development?

[Shalabi] The Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] has sent several delegations to the United Nations to explain the Iraqi people's views and expose Saddam's attempts. The UINC played an important role in persuading the United Nations that Saddam will not change his nature or his regime's style, which is based on persecuting the Iraqi people and destroying their civilian society. The UINC also sent delegations to all European states to explain Saddam's crimes and to warn them against being deceived by Saddam's promises. These delegations received positive answers. As for the Arab and Islamic states, the UINC will send a delegation to Egypt shortly to explain Saddam's persecution of the Iraqi people.

SAIRI Suspends Participation in Opposition Bodies

LD3001220793 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], announced today that the opposition movements in southern Iraq have suspended until further notice their participation in the bodies formed by the Iraqi opposition last November.

The Iraqi opposition had adopted a plan in a general conference in Salah al-Din in northern Iraq providing for the establishment of a federal authority and collective leadership in Iraq after the toppling of the Baghdad regime. SAIRI criticized the present form of the leadership of the opposition. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim made it clear that talks are being held with other factions of the Iraqi opposition on reaching an agreement on the reformation of the leadership of the opposition, pointing out that an agreement had been reached with Kurdish organizations.

He also pointed out that the Baghdad regime forces continue to oppress the population in southern Iraq and to commit massacres against civilians there. He called on the coalition states to widen the protection they provide to the Kurds in northern Iraq to include all Iraq through the issuing of a [word indistinct] UN resolution to force the Iraqi regime forces to [word indistinct] against civilians.

Further Report

NC3101133193 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31 (AFP) - The main Shiite groups have pulled away from the rest of the Iraqi opposition to President Saddam Husayn, according to the head of a leading Iraqi Shiite movement.

Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) "suspended" its membership because of a "certain number of problems." He refused to elaborate. "Discussions are under way to try and settle these problems," al-Hakim told AFP on Saturday [30 January].

At an opposition congress in Kurdish-held northern Iraq in November, Shiite groups had resisted the adoption of a draft constitution for a federation in a post-Saddam Iraq. SAIRI also criticized the formation of a three-member opposition leadership—Sunni, Shiite and non-Arab Kurd—and said the Shiites, who make up more than 50 percent of the population, were under-represented.

Turning to mainly Shiite southern Iraq, al-Hakim charged the "Iraqi Army is pursuing its persecution, arrests, bombings and blockades." The opposition is limiting its actions "so as not to provoke reprisals against the population."

He criticised the allied patrols over the "no-fly" zone for Iraqi aircraft in the south, saying the allies "defend their aircraft by destroying missile batteries but allow Saddam Husayn's forces to massacre the population."

Shiite Radio Reports Attacks on Regime Targets in South

NC3001162293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] As the anniversary of the glorious uprising approaches, the Islamic resistance forces carried out a heroic operation in the 'Ali al-Gharbi District of al-'Amarah Governorate. They attacked the ruling party headquarters, captured two vehicles, and killed a major. This report was confirmed by our sources in southern Iraq. They said that an Islamic resistance group ambushed a Land Cruiser on the Baghdad-al-'Amarah highway near (?al-Sa'diyah) village in 'Ali al-Gharbi District, killing a Ba'th Party member driving the vehicle. While searching the vehicle, a military vehicle carrying an Iraqi officer and his bodyguards approached. The group clashed with the occupants, killed the officer, and returned safely to base.

Another Islamic resistance group attacked a Ba'th Party headquarters in 'Ali al-Gharbi, killed a large number of the regime's henchmen, seized two Toyota trucks, and returned safely to base.

A group of Mujahidin in 'Ali al-Gharbi captured two large Toyota trucks belonging to the Iraqi regime's security forces and drove off to the mujahidin bases.

Last week an Islamic resistance group ambushed an emergency forces patrol—which the Iraqi regime had formed to quell the population in southern Iraq—on the al-Kut-al-'Amarah highway near the Shaykh Sa'd area. This was confirmed by our sources in south Iraq. They said the clash left the patrol commander and an intelligence captain dead. Two emergency forces vehicles were destroyed and their occupants killed. The group returned safely to base.

Army Bombardment of Marshlands Reported

NC0102162193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The tyrant Saddam's forces continue to shell the southern marshlands with heavy artillery to avenge their losses against the Islamic resistance forces.

Our sources in the south report that al-'Aqar al-Kabir, (Abu-'Ashrah), (al-Jadiy), (al-Sahyun), al-Sayqal, and (al-Tariq) in the al-'Amarah [Maysan] and al-Nasiriyah Governorates have been coming under brutal attack by the regime's heavy artillery and tank attacks since last week.

Our sources also report that many women and children have been wounded in the bombardment and dozens of houses have been demolished. Hundreds of families have been forced to leave their homes. [passage indistinct]

More Than 40 Officers Reportedly Killed in Raid

NC2901165593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan source has given us this report:

On the night of 13-14 January—that is, during the Western coalition's air strikes against the Iraqi regime—coalition planes raided the operations room of 'Ali Bin-Abu-Talib base. As a result, over 40 officers of various ranks were killed, including staff lieutenant generals, staff major generals, staff brigadier generals, staff lieutenant colonels, and staff majors.

The source added that these officers were discussing developments and the situation in Iraq when the air strike targeted them.

Kurdish Radio Reports 20 Regime Troops Killed 29 Jan

NC3001171793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] An Iraqi regime force infiltrated the Jabari area in Karkuk Governorate on 29 January and were confronted by a unit from the 20th Division of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Following a 90-minute clash, the Iraqi group was forced to flee toward Qarah Hinjirah after 20 of its personnel were killed.

Regime Said Reinforcing 'Terrorist Network' in Europe

NC0102162893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime has sent agents and intelligence operatives to several European cities, including Geneva, in an attempt to reinforce its terrorist network in Europe.

The London-based newspaper AL-WIFAQ recently reported that the ostracized regime sent intelligence officer Shakir Al-Khuja to work at the regime's mission at the UN headquarters in Geneva as the official in charge of the environment.

The paper added that the Foreign Ministry of dictator Saddam Husayn's regime sent a memorandum to the UN headquarters in Geneva nominating the agent, al-Khuja, for this post, claiming that he is a third secretary in the ostracized regime's Foreign Ministry.

AL-WIFAQ said the transfer of officer Shakir al-Khuja to Geneva is intended to assist Barzan al-Tikriti [Saddam's half brother] to implement some criminal acts against the Iraqi opposition forces, figures, and parties.

Hamas 'Activists' With U.S. Citizenship Arrested

Arrests Lead to 40 More

TA3101113293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The General Security Service [Shin Bet] has arrested two leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, both American citizens, who came to Israel to reorganize Hamas following the deportations in December. Mark Weiss is on the line with details:

Two American citizens, described as senior Hamas activists in the U.S., were arrested last week by the General Security Service. The two are suspected of trying to reorganize Hamas following the deportations. The two activists have been named as 39-year-old Salah Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid from Chicago, and 35-year-old Muhammad Jum'a Hilmi Jarrad, also from Chicago. The arrest of the two men led, in turn, to the arrest of 40 more Hamas activists from the territories.

The American ambassador has been informed of the arrest, and the U.S. consul has been given permission to visit the two men in jail. The two men brought more than $100,000 from abroad to help rebuild the Hamas organization throughout the territories and to reestablish the links between the local Hamas activists and the organization abroad.

More on Capture

TA3101181293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Report by Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] The two detained Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists—Abu-Ahmad and Abu-Anas [names as heard]—live in Chicago, where they operate under the guise of businessmen. Acting on the instructions of Hamas chiefs in the United States and England, they contacted fellow activists in Ramallah, Jerusalem, Hebron, and the Gaza Strip immediately upon arrival from the United States. They handed them funds amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars, which were to enable the organization to continue its terrorist operations.

Abu-Ahmad had been requested to report to the Hamas U.S. chiefs on the Gaza Strip organization's activities and needs. The two wrote a report, which was supposed to be conveyed to their superiors abroad. The report was seized when Abu-Ahmad was apprehended in the Gaza Strip.

An interrogation of the two men revealed that their U.S. operators had given them another assignment: to contact Israeli Islamic Movement leaders who were to be persuaded to influence the media on the deportee issue.

A search of Abu-Ahmad's room at the YMCA in East Jerusalem revealed $100,000 in cash as well as written material with details on Hamas activists, entries about meetings with Hamas activists, and operations, including suicide operations. Forty senior Hamas activists in the territories have been detained, and political elements assess this afternoon that dozens more Hamas personnel are expected to be detained in the near future.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 31 January adds the following details: "The interrogation uncovered a connection between Hamas activists abroad and members of the Islamic Movement in Israel who serve as a conduit for funds to Hamas activists in the territories." The report states that their "interrogation revealed widespread activities including the transfer of $400,000 to Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip," noting that "some of the Hamas activists who were deported to Lebanon hold senior positions in the movement." Qol Yisra'el also reports that "large quantities of material were seized during the capture of the 40 Hamas activists in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, including a computer, fax machine, and material documenting widespread Hamas activity in the Gaza Strip" and that "photographs of armed fugitives belonging to the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads were also confiscated." A security source told Qol Yisra'el that "the Hamas used communications and media offices as fronts for their activity and made extensive use of mosques throughout the Gaza Strip to recruit activists. The Islamic University in the Gaza Strip served as a center for activity and communications."]

Cabinet Briefed on Arrests

TA3101194093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Excerpt] An element of drama entered today's cabinet session, in addition to the drama surrounding the deportee affair, which was already to be expected. While the cabinet ministers were discussing the deportation decision and the High Court of Justice ruling, the prime minister suddenly interrupted the debate and announced the capture of the two American Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. A senior defense establishment official briefed the cabinet in detail on the arrests and reported about the hundreds of thousands of dollars found on the suspects, the documents that were confiscated, and the instructions the suspects had received.

The official was still briefing the ministers when the U.S. ambassador to Israel arrived at the cabinet session. The prime minister called a short break and left the meeting to speak with the ambassador. Later Rabin returned and resumed the meeting, with Transportation Minister Yisra'el Qeysar filling in for Foreign Minister Peres. Rabin did not divulge any details about his meeting with Ambassador Harrop.

Earlier, the prime minister reported to the cabinet on his telephone conversations over the weekend with Egyptian President Mubarak and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. As for his conversation with Mubarak, Rabin said that the Egyptian president had mainly wanted to know the reasons for the rejection of the proposal under which the deportees would be transferred to the South Lebanese security zone.

Rabin would give no details about his phone conversation with Secretary of State Christopher; however, it appears that contrary to the impression created by the reports in THE WASHINGTON POST, the two men discussed, among other things, the need to prevent misunderstandings between the two countries, to maintain cooperation, to agree on a basic approach, and on attempts to see how things work out. Their conversation could not be described as tough by any means.

Rabin assessed that the Americans were not interested in having the Security Council impose sanctions on Israel, even more so because such a decision would be difficult to justify according to the UN Charter, which stipulates that sanctions could only be imposed on countries which pose a danger to international or regional peace, and Israel definitely does not fit that bill. [passage omitted]

Third American Arrested

TA0102062193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The General Security Services have arrested a third American citizen for allegedly being involved with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activity in Ramallah. The man, identified as Muhammad Tawfiq (Hajja), was arrested several days ago. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 1 February, in a report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, adds that "(Hajja) is suspected of having taken part in Hamas terrorist attacks in the Ramallah area" and that "there is no connection between his arrest and that of two other American Hamas activists announced yesterday." The report goes on to say that "Israel has been relaying detailed information about the developments in the affair to the United States."]

The General Security Services are carrying out an extensive new investigation into Hamas activity following the arrest of the Palestinians with American citizenship. They are said to have been sent here with instructions from Hamas leaders in the United States and Britain to rebuild the infrastructure of the organization, using hundreds of thousands of dollars to purchase weapons and finance various activities. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

According to a senior security source, Hamas leaders based in the United States have built up an extensive international infrastructure for transmitting funds or operational directions to several countries in the Middle East, as well as to Hamas activists or Islamic fundamentalists in Israel and the territories.

The Hamas organization in the territories has three distinct branches: The backbone are members of the Hamas activist core which controls overall political activity in the area, issues operational pamphlets, directs disturbances, and maintains liaison between all the Hamas branches, command centers, and overseas leaders.

The second branch is known as the (Dawa), responsible for propaganda and directing Hamas activities in the mosques and through charitable and other institutions, as well as overseeing Hamas political activity for elections to student and professional bodies in the territories.

The third branch is the military wing of Hamas, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qasim, whose gunmen undertake attacks against Palestinians as well as Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Hamas activities are directed from four command centers. The headquarters for Hamas members operating in the northern region of the West Bank is located in Nabulus. Hamas leaders in Ramallah direct activities in the Ramallah region, Jerusalem, and Jericho. Hebron is headquarters for Hamas activities in the southern area of the West Bank, while a fourth command center directs activities in the Gaza Strip. Each center is linked to the Hamas leadership in the United States, with contact maintained via couriers and various mail systems.

Links have also been established between the territories and Hamas leaders in Britain. Hamas leaders in both these countries are backed by a well-established Islamic fundamentalist infrastructure which engages in legitimate economic, business, and religious enterprises.

In addition to its links here, the Hamas centers in the United States have also established contacts or branches in other countries. There are close links and activist training centers in Iran and Sudan, representatives based in Jordan and Lebanon, and a range of activities in Syria with opponents of the peace process.

Last week's arrest and questioning of the two Palestinians who arrived here in mid-January and who had settled in the United States and acquired American citizenship has helped the security authorities to uncover more of the workings of Hamas here and abroad, and more arrests are expected to be made as their investigation continues.

Minister on U.S.-Israeli Ties

TA3101161593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Ya'el Dan and Yaron Wilensky—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Dan] What can you tell us about the link between the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] center in the United States and the organization in the territories as it has shaped up since the deportation and since the exposure of the U.S. center?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] As you know, we were aware of the connection between the U.S.-based leadership and that in the territories. Some people thought the U.S. branch dealt only with fund-raising, which may possibly be a legitimate activity. I think what happened was that these people moved up a rung: They did raise funds, but they also arrived here, brought money from abroad, deposited it with the local organization, used it, and attempted to physically operate their troops here. This is serious. The fact that a news conference was held today and the matter was explained to the entire world should sound an alarm in countries such as the United States, Britain, and other places where Hamas activists have opened offices under the cover of local citizenship and are trying to conduct activities liable to harm regional and global security. [passage omitted]

[Dan] Has the arrest of the two American Palestinians engendered a political issue between the United States and Israel? Can the Americans be seen as responsible in any way?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] The Americans are the last people who should be charged with responsibility. I believe we have given the Americans all the relevant information we had amassed, and additional, unpublicized things will be also conveyed to the Americans. I believe there is reciprocity between the two countries, and each country can detain the other's nationals in the case of law infringement. I do not see how the relationship between the United States and us can suffer as a result of that. On the contrary, I only see growing cooperation between us and the United States in this context.

[Wilensky] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, thank you very much for this interview.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Thank you.

Hamas Command Reportedly in U.S.

TA3101133893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Telephone discussion between anchor Roni Daniyel and Ehud Ya'ari, Arab affairs correspondent for Israel Television—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Good day, Ehud.

[Ya'ari] Good day, Roni.

[Daniyel] I gather that you were not surprised by the arrest of the two U.S. citizens described as leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

[Ya'ari] I am surprised by the report just like anyone, but the fact that Hamas has activists operating in the United States is a serious phenomenon of worrying and painful scope. I believe it was just a matter of time before they tried to revive the network destroyed by the wave of arrests of more than 1,000 men and the following deportations.

[Daniyel] Over the past few days, you have been exposing Hamas' activities in the United States and the effect on what happens here in a series of commentaries and articles. Why does Hamas need this logistic base—let us call it that—in the United States?

[Ya'ari] This is more than an logistic base. We are, in fact, speaking of the headquarters. They need it because they had reached the conclusion—as many organizations, such as Fatah, had before—that, due to the pressure of the Shin Bet and the Israeli administration, they are unable to run a real headquarters in the territories. They have tried and could not do it. Fatah also failed in the late 1960's and 1970's. Their conclusion was that the United States suits them as a location for a headquarters. It may be remote, but in the age of fax, telephone, couriers, and other means, distance is a secondary consideration.

They chose the United States because there is a very important concentration there of senior Hamas men, some of them Palestinians who left Israel several years ago and others who joined them recently. I will name one: Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, who is perhaps the No. 1 Hamas man, if this non-organization could have a No. 1 figure. For many years he resided in and still frequently visits Arlington, Virginia, which is in effect Washington, D.C., the U.S. capital. He is not the only one.

The man who sent Abu-Ahmad, who was captured here in the YMCA Hotel in East Jerusalem in possession of $100,000, letters, and so forth, is Shaykh Jamal Said. He is a very well known Muslim Palestinian preacher from Chicago. And there is a host of others. The operations are directed from there.

One more point, with your permission. The man who was appointed Hamas commander in the territories is a young man from Tubas named Muhammad Qasim Sawalha. He fled Israel in October 1990, when our defense establishment was cracking down on the previous Hamas organization. This young man, aged 32 or 33, is sitting in London. He briefed the two gentlemen who came here, giving them instructions and funds to revive the network. That is, the headquarters is in the United States; operations are directed from there; some come from Britain. For Hamas, surprising as this may sound—and I saw that some of my fellow reporters found this hard to accept—the United States today is to a large extent what Tunis is for the PLO—this is a fact, and nothing can be done about this.

[Daniyel] Is Iran not a more convenient location?

[Ya'ari] Yes, Iran is a convenient place, but it is difficult to hold free and open communications from there. After all, Iran's relations with Israel today are, to say the least, very low-key. So, telephone discussions with Tehran.... [changes thought] There is a Hamas man in Iran: 'Imad al-'Alami, a deportee from Gaza. Apparently, Hamas men are being trained in Iran, though not many at this stage. They operate from Iran as well, but their representation in Iran, as elsewhere, is directly connected to the headquarters in the United States.

[Daniyel] You are saying that the two men were sent here to piece together the ruins. In other words, the deportation of the 415 was a major blow to this organization. What did they come with? Money and instructions on how to act and activate others?

[Ya'ari] All of the above. The detentions and the following deportations have severed the secret, undercover, complicated, and compartmentalized channels between the regional Hamas headquarters in the territories and the U.S. center and its branch in Britain. You should remember that there is compartmentalization in the field; that is, the man in charge of Hamas operations in the northern West Bank does not know the man in charge of Hamas activities in the southern West Bank or the one in the Gaza Strip. They are all connected to the foreign operators. They had to reconstruct the channels; bring in new money to grease the wheels of the operations—as you know money is an important factor in any terror activity; they had to establish new methods of organization in view of the exposure of their previous structure, and so on. The two came here, and a money changer was at their disposal immediately. The two were cruising among activists, instructing and guiding them on how to reorganize, with money in their hands.

[Daniyel] We heard that U.S. Ambassador William Harrop arrived at the cabinet session—perhaps to discuss other issues, but the two may also be mentioned. Are the U.S. authorities aware of the activity and its connections?

[Ya'ari] The U.S. authorities are aware of the activity and the Israeli complaints in this respect. I do not know what they are doing about it. As a reporter who has been pursuing and following this activity for many years, all I can tell you is that so far I have not seen any U.S. intervention. They have their legal problems. For example, the Hamas publications issued in the United States—such as AL-ZAYTUNA [as heard], ILA FALASTIN in Los Angeles, and others, are still being published. They keep holding gatherings in Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona, and in Kansas City on occasion. These gatherings are attended by the heads of the Muslim movements of the Arab world, among which I have already seen leaders of the Islamic Jihad from Gaza, such as 'Abd-al-'Aziz Awdah and others. I believe that they know more than they say, but I have seen no activity.

[Daniyel] We heard Yom-Tov Sami', Commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, say that there is no way to deliver one blow and put an end to Hamas activities. Was this a blow at all?

[Ya'ari] It was a major blow. We have to remember that the problem is not how we deal with the Islamic movements. This is a powerful phenomenon, which is alive, kicking, and some may even say threatening. We will have to deal with it one way or another. The question is whether Hamas will have an efficient headquarters and an underground organization in the territories. I believe that in its recent moves—regardless the debate over the deportations—Israel has demonstrated that it will prevent them from having an organized operation in the territories. Allow me to put things in perspective and remind you that when we examine the history of the PLO attempts to set up secret organizations in the territories, we find that through the years, Israel has managed to prevent Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and slightly less the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine from setting up organized, permanent, absolutely secret organizations in the territories. This was as one of their main motivations for eventually sitting with us at the negotiating table.

[Daniyel] Ehud Ya'ari, thank you.

[Ya'ari] You are welcome.

Islamic Movement Leader Denies Ties

TA0102065993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] The investigation of the two American Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, whose arrest was announced yesterday, has revealed that one of their missions was to have been to establish contacts between Hamas activists abroad and activists of the Islamic Movement in Israel. They had planned to ask its leaders to take advantage of their links with the Israeli media to intercede on behalf of the deportees. Good morning to Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel.

[Darwish] Good morning.

[Gay] Is it true that they contacted you?

[Darwish] They did not. I have just heard in the news that they had planned to establish some contacts. I think that we will not disappoint those Palestinians who expect us to provide bread and clothing to hungry children or the elderly; however, we will greatly disappoint anybody who expects us to engage in verbal or physical violence or to sabotage the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts in the Middle East.

[Gay] Do you distinguish between humanitarian aid and political or other aid?

[Darwish] Definitely. This is as clear as day. You know very well that Jews and Arabs work together on the committee for the deportees. The question now is not whether the deportees belong to Hamas, Fatah, the Islamic Jihad, or other groups; the issue is the deportation itself. We are opposed to deportation because it is an intolerable precedent. We, the Arab citizens of Israel, are fearful of such a precedent, because if a government that includes Meretz and is led by Rabin carries out deportations, who knows what our fate will be if there is a political upheaval and the extreme right wing, which publicly advocates an Arab population transfer, comes to power.

[Gay] The issue in question is not the deportations but the links between the Islamic Movement in Israel and so-called Hamas activists abroad.

[Darwish] We have said time and again that we are not prepared to be affiliated with Islamic movements throughout the Arab world because we have our own policy. We explicitly serve our own people and our religion here, in the State of Israel, without violating Israeli law. Those who like this policy of ours are welcome, and those who do not are free to do whatever they want.

[Gay] In the wake of the deportations, is there pressure from people in your ranks to intensify your contacts with Hamas?

[Darwish] I think that all members of the Islamic Movement in Israel—and I emphasize: the Islamic Movement in Israel—whether among the leadership or in other positions, know that this is our policy. We are not affiliated with other movements and organizations. If we are talking about humanitarian aid through the Arab Follow-Up Committee or the Committee of Arab Local Councils, we will take part in it, but we will not take part in anything else, simply because our policy is one of peace between the two peoples. We will gladly speak to or cooperate with anybody willing to pursue such a policy. Anybody who does not want to see a peace process or close relations and coexistence between the two peoples should find an outlet for their dreams elsewhere, not with us, not with the Islamic Movement.

[Gay] Shaykh Darwish, I thank you very much.

[Darwish] Thank you.

Hamas Believed Responsible for IDF Soldiers' Deaths

TA3001185093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Two Israeli soldiers were killed and a third soldier was wounded this morning in the Gaza Strip when gunmen fired on their patrol from a passing vehicle. One of the soldiers killed has been identified as 31-year-old Reserve Sergeant Arik Arfi of Sederot. The family of the second soldier has been notified. Alan Ben-'Ami reports:

The attack took place at about 0530 [0330 GMT] in the morning. The three soldiers—a Druze sergeant, his Bedouin tracker, and a driver, Sergeant Arik Arfi, a 31-year-old reservist from Sederot, were on a routine morning patrol. They were traveling along the road inside the fence that surrounds the agricultural hothouses of Ganey Tal, one of the Jewish settlements in the Qatif Bloc area near Khan Yunus, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip. Automatic weapons fire was suddenly opened up at the jeep as it approached bushes growing beside the road. A number of bullets penetrated the front of the jeep, but the vehicle continued to move on. More bullets hit the side, and then the rear, and the jeep came to a rest about 30 meters past the ambush site. [passage omitted]

A search of the area turned up signs that two men had carried out the attack, and that some 60 bullets from an M-16 automatic rifle had been fired towards the patrol. The attackers took the automatic rifle away with them, but a Carl Gustav submachine gun with a bullet jammed in its breech was found at the ambush site, together with half a dozen magazines for the M-16, a commando knife, a lamp, some gloves, a kaffiyeh scarf, and a balaclava helmet. Writing on the Carl Gustav gun indicated that the owner was a member of the 'Izz- al-Din al-Qassam military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Footprints of the attackers led back towards Khan Yunus. [passage omitted]

Rabin Working on Solution to Deportee Affair

TA3101200993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The prime minister is currently working on a formula acceptable to the United States to resolve the deportee affair. Such a formula would lift some of the international pressure from Israel and preclude the adoption of tough resolutions at the United Nations. Today's cabinet session witnessed sharp verbal exchanges between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Justice Minister David Liba'i. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports from the studio.

Intensive contacts are currently under way to prevent damage to Israel as a result of the deportee affair and to keep the peace process on track. Although great efforts are also being made at the United Nations, most of the activity is directed at the United States. The deportees' files are now being rapidly examined by two committees that have already been established for this purpose.

The formula could subsequently turn out to be something like this: Some of the deportees would be returned; others would have their deportation periods shortened; while the others, if this proves possible and if they so desire, would leave Lebanon. Officials at the Prime Minister's Office refused to comment on the above. [passage omitted]

More on Formula

TA0102085693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Feb 93 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] In recent days, Israeli-U.S. relations have been tense as a result of disagreements on the deportee issue. The Americans are continuing to heavily pressure Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, expecting him not to settle for gestures but to take substantive steps that will result in the return of a considerable number of deportees and in a significant reduction of the others' deportation terms. [passage omitted]

Yesterday Rabin notified the cabinet of the establishment of two advisory committees that will review the deportees' dossiers. He stressed that the committees have not been instructed to find mistakes in the original decisions in a bid to bring back a certain number of deported Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Senior political sources said that the "package deal" mentioned at the cabinet meeting yesterday contains a demand that the deportees who are allowed to return to the territories sign a pledge to refrain from terrorist activities.

According to them, the "package deal" proposed by Rabin includes Israeli consent to bring back several dozens deportees and to reduce the deportation terms of others. The proposal is designed to ensure American support at the UN Security Council, although it is believed in Jerusalem that Hamas will reject every compromise proposal. The United States is supposed to undertake to bring the Palestinians and the Arab countries back to the peace talks. No understanding has been achieved with the United States so far, and the Americans have pointed out through a variety of diplomatic channels that they do not wish to resort to their right of veto to foil a resolution denouncing Israel. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry yesterday discussed the possibility that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, currently in Brussels, would travel from Brussels to New York to head the Israeli diplomatic effort aimed at averting an extreme anti-Israeli resolution at the Security Council. Peres will decide today whether he will travel to the United States for meetings with Butrus-Ghali and Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

Cabinet To Let Advisory Committees Continue Work

TA3101134893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] The government adopted no operative decisions regarding the deportees at today's cabinet session. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the government decided to let the advisory committees examining the deportees' cases continue their work. At the same time, contacts with the United States will be maintained.

The ministers congratulated the Shin Bet for capturing the two American Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer stressed that if it had not been for the mass deportation, the capture of the two men would not have been possible.

During the cabinet session, the prime minister criticized Justice Minister Liba'i for the statements he made following the High Court of Justice's ruling on the deportees. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Tourism Minister Bar'am said that he was interested in hearing Liba'i's opinions on political and security affairs. To that Prime Minister Rabin replied: So invite him after the meeting. Bar'am retorted that he was particularly interested in hearing Liba'i speak at the cabinet sessions since that was the appropriate forum.

Press on Ramifications of High Court Ruling

TA2901152293

[Editorial Report] Israeli papers in their 29 January editions comment extensively on the Israeli High Court of Justice ruling concerning the deportees and on the political ramifications of this ruling. Most papers, while expressing appreciation for the learned and non-biased ruling, believe that the political difficulties have not been solved and that the Israeli Government, in particular Prime Minister Rabin, will have to act decisively and courageously in order to disentangle Israel from the political quagmire created in the wake of the deportation of the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists.

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew in a page 2 editorial entitled "Driving Through a Red Light," starts out with harsh criticism of Prime Minister Rabin: "Despite the final result, the High Court of Justice ruling leaves the impression that Yitzhaq Rabin drove through a red light at an intersection: the manner in which the deportations were originally carried out—after a five-minute consultation with the justice minister, 10 minutes with the attorney general and based on a general deportation order that deprived the deportees the right of appeal—was illegal and opposed to the basic rules of democracy." The editorial expresses concern should Rabin interpret the High Court ruling as confirmation of his methods. It then urges Meretz ministers, Labor doves and the Supreme Court not to lose their voice in the face of frustration felt by the Israeli public vis-a-vis Islamic fundamentalist terrorism. According to the paper Rabin needs "these safety valves which would ensure that even a country which is waging a war on terrorism preserve its democratic nature at all costs."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a page B1 commentary by Yo'el Marcus entitled "The Fool Who Threw the Stone" sharply criticizes the deportation and the consequent moves orchestrated by Prime Minister Rabin. Marcus asserts that in this case "the Israeli Government took a hasty, careless decision which failed to consider the possible ramifications and which lacked any political foresight." Marcus adds that this decision has caused a serious setback in our international standing, to the point of having us compared to international villains such as Iraq and Serbia.

Turning to the High Court of Justice ruling, Marcus notes that the bottom line of its decision is "that the deportees will remain deportees until each of them requests in writing to appear before an appeals committee."

Reverting to the deportation decision Marcus comments wryly that "the mass deportation failed in its mission, not to say that it a total fiasco." Marcus explains that Rabin believed the deportation would constitute a painful blow to Hamas, "whereas in fact he found himself trapped by a clever maneuver contrived by the Arabs." In leaving the deportees marooned in the desolate no-man's land in south Lebanon they have managed "to transform them from ruthless terrorists into pitiful 'les miserables', whereas we have transformed in international public opinion into ruthless oppressors."

Marcus states that two courses remain open following the High Court ruling: "First, Rabin, encouraged by the High Court, can barricade himself in his intransigent position, thus enjoying to the full his popularity in Israel as the national macho leader. Second, he can use the High Court achievement to quickly defuse this land mine in such a way that neither Israel nor its prime minister would lose face or their deterrence power vis-a-vis Hamas. Marcus urges the governnment and the prime minister to adopt this second course, calling on the ministers not to be too subservient and meek in their relations with Rabin, saying they should educate him to be "first among equals," rather than a "prime minister who regards himself as a president."

Marcus sums up by stating that "our relentless war against Hamas and all forms of terrorism is justified and vital for the continuation of the peace process; we should and must continue it with all our strength. But why in God's name can we not do this without antagonizing the entire world?"

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew in a page 8 commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari entitled "It Was and Still Remains A Political Problem," starts out by stressing that the High Court ruling has not changed the fact that the deportees issue remains a political problem. 'Inbari asks "what political solution will the Israeli Government adopt and how will the Arab world react to this." In this context 'Inbari emphasizes that continuing the political process is now on the agenda. He notes that "the deportation has entrapped this process. The Arab sides are interested in its resumption, but the spectacle of the deportees encampment is creating an intractable public opinion in the Arab world, especially among the Palestinians." 'Inbari adds that Syria has been showing signs that it is interested in an arrangement with Israel, "since it understands that the real threats to its security come from the east—Iraq and Iran, which are trying to obtain nuclear weapons."

'Inbari then goes on to comment on the upcoming UN Security Council session, with Butrus-Ghali's harsh report hovering in the background. Referring to Butrus-Ghali's recommendations, 'Inbari states "it is inconceivable that the United States would support them, and it is probable that secret contacts are under way for reaching a quiet settlement of the affair."

Analyzing the differences of opinion within the Arab world, 'Inbari states that the PLO is leading the campaign within the Arab world for imposing sanctions on Israel: "the reason for this is that the PLO does not want to confront the outraged Palestinian public and is striving to use the crisis for patching up its relations with Hamas, whereas the Arab world, on the contrary, is interested in hurting Hamas and other extremist Islamic organizations, and it is doubtful whether Arab countries are following these reconciliation gestures with sympathy."

Based on his analysis of the Arab countries' position, 'Inbari infers that concurrently to the Security Council session negotiations will commence for a package deal: "The Arab world will disband the deportees encampment, in exchange for which Israel would have to foot the bill around the negotiations table. Such a deal will greatly help President Clinton, who wants to help Israel help itself." 'Inbari then criticizes Rabin's inability to change his obsolete concepts. He scores Rabin for implementing dubious goodwill gestures vis-a-vis the Palestinians, while on the other hand "the mass deportation was carried out as part of a hard fist policy which runs utterly against a goodwill gestures policy, including relaxing open fire regulations in Gaza and firing missiles on suspects' homes." 'Inbari remarks that "Rabin must realize that the Palestinians are a nation, not a mere herd. He must perceive that an understanding with Syria cannot be implemented without an arrangement with the Palestinians, or at least without gaining their good will." 'Inbari ends by noting that "the price Rabin will have to pay the Arabs for disbanding the deportees encampment will be to abandon the out worn Rabin doctrine which has never been vindicated in the past and will never be vindicated in future."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew in a page 15 commentary by Amir Oren entitled "The Wall is Speaking to Rabin," sharply raps the prime minister for orchestrating the deportees fiasco, stating forcefully that "in a sound administration a prime minister who has orchestrated such a magnificent Pyrrhic victory as Yitzhaq Rabin did in the High Court of Justice would have resigned forthwith—and with no recourse to an appeal, at that." Oren demands to know why Rabin insisted on appointing himself as defense minister, seeing that the involvement in routine security affairs prevents him from dealing with "that global strategy which should have directed his moves on the basis of 50 years of experience in military and political affairs."

Referring to U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, Oren remarks that "Christopher does not want to get entangled in the artificial deportees issue during his visit to Jerusalem next month."

Turning to Bill Clinton, Oren describes the various internal difficulties faced by the U.S. President, such as the limited support for him during the U.S. elections, economic difficulties and even the issue of homosexuals' military service. Oren remarks that Clinton "does not want to be a one-term president like Carter or Bush, but his initial performance is poor, and this justifies the doubts regarding his character and his compatibility to the most important post in the world." Oren notes the importance attributed by the Clinton Administration to public opinion, stressing that "if the White House and senators' offices will be flooded by outraged letters demanding to punish Israel the U.S. leaders will not be able to withstand the pressure." Oren marks "Rabin's expressed hope that Clinton will not be the first U.S. President since Eisenhower threatened to impose sanctions on Israel in the winter of 1956-57." According to Oren, however, "the real challenge facing Rabin is to disentangle himself from the deportation flop, to accept a practical solution such as a detention camp for preparing the appeals (without risking the lives of Israeli soldiers in guarding the travel of attorneys inside Lebanon), and to advance toward solving Israel's basic security needs."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT (HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew in pages 4, 5 feature an Amnon Barzilay commentary entitled "On His Way Down Rabin Climbed Another Branch." Barzilay starts by describing Rabin's satisfaction at the High Court of Justice ruling, adding that he fails to understand the reasons for Rabin's glee. Barzilay remarks that "the deportees affair is a thorn in everybody's flesh. Clinton has better things to do during the next year, the Europeans are extremely dissatisfied with the fact that the peace process has stopped and even the Arab leaders pray that the affair end." Barzilay remarks, however, that the High Court's ruling has not ended the affair by a long shot. Barzilay insists, moreover, that Rabin, contrary to some of the ministers, remains adamant in his approach to this issue, maintaining that even if "there were faults in the implementation stage, the deportation itself was completely justified." Barzilay states that "in the 3 days remaining until the Security Council debate, Rabin has enough time to formulate a proposal which would convince the 15 Council members to drop the threat of sanctions."

Referring to the U.S. involvement in this affair, Barzilay remarks that Rabin attributes paramount importance to appeasing President Clinton, thus "giving the new man in the White House enough reasons to prevent the sanctions." This, however, will not be easy, because "the last thing the United States needs at the present time is having to use its veto power in the Security Council." Israel is troubled by the fact that the United States is wary of a confrontation with the United Nations. Whereas Israel is interested in exacerbating the confrontation in the United Nations, a thing which would force the United States to have recourse to its veto right, "the U.S. position could possibly result in deals at Israel's expense."

Barzilay notes, however, that Rabin's claims notwithstanding, the Security Council does recognize the differences between Israel on the one hand and Iraq, Libya and Serbia on the other. "For this reason the Council is not demanding to use force against Israel as it is doing against Iraq or Serbia. But it is demanding that Israel comply with its resolutions." Barzilay notes that even if there are sanctions "they would amount to nothing more than token sanctions." Nevertheless this would be a disaster for Israel, "because the sanctions would serve as a precedent. Next time they would be more numerous and more painful. Israel must do everything possible to prevent this scenario."

Barzilay ends with a comment regarding the inimical relationship between Rabin and Butrus-Ghali, stating that Rabin has been deeply suspicious of and antagonistic to Butrus-Ghali since the late 1970's. Already then "Rabin regarded Butrus-Ghali as the political philosopher who concocted for al-Sadat the theory that Israel could be strangled and annihilated by pursuing a strategy of peace. It appears that even today, 14 years after the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt was signed, Rabin still suspects Butrus-Ghali."

Meretz Leader: Peace-Promoting Government Can Deport

TA2901204193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Shulamit Aloni, education and culture minister and Meretz leader, by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Excerpt] [Segal] Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni is in the studio with us. Good evening. Speaking retroactively, following the High Court of Justice ruling, was your decision to endorse the general deportation order a mistake?

[Aloni] I am a member of the government, and I share its decisions and responsibility.

[Segal] But you are a jurist, too.

[Aloni] Yes, but I am here as a cabinet member, and I want to comment as a cabinet member only, not as a legal expert or a jurist. When we made the decision, we believed that a government which wants to bring peace, which does not believe that it is all ours and is prepared for a territorial compromise, which attempts to do everything it can to promote the negotiations, such a government has a right and a duty to remove people, leaders who plan and actually sabotage the peace process.

[Segal] Even in this way?

[Aloni] I would like to tell it as it happened. You cannot compare previous governments, which did not believe in territorial compromise and spoke of transfer, with one that wants to build peace. We were persuaded at that cabinet meeting that the act of expulsion would bring calm, that other forces that would promote peace, would step in the resulting vacuum. What happened after that is history, and I will not try to assess the situation in hindsight. As cabinet member, I now have to think of what we ought to do. First of all, the decisions of the High Court of Justice must be implemented as soon, as speedily, and as wisely as possible.

[Segal] But judging by reports, the deportees do not even want to appeal. How then will the government act? I am asking you, the leader of Meretz: How will the Meretz ministers act?

[Aloni] The appeal committees were instructed to check pertinent information, even if no appeal is submitted, and to reach conclusions. What the cabinet will have to debate next week is how to achieve quick and significant progress in the peace process. It will also have to decide—and that is probably more urgent—on its attitude to the Security Council resolution, if and when one is passed. [passage omitted]

Peres: Sanctions Would Be Death of Talks

PM0102143193 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 27 Jan 93 p 12

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Umberto de Giovannangeli in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's words burn in Israel: "I would not be fulfilling my function if, at this point, I failed to ask the Security Council to take all necessary measures to force Israel to repatriate the 415 Palestinians deported to Lebanon." That is the exhortation which Butrus-Ghali delivered to all the Security Council member states, reminding them that "approval for Resolution 799 was unanimous." This was a message aimed mainly at the United States, which at present seems inclined to veto possible sanctions against the Jewish state. Jerusalem's response was immediate. In this interview Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres explains the reasons for "the bitterness and concern felt by the government and people of Israel over Butrus-Ghali's grave decision."

[De Giovannangeli] Mr. Minister, how do you view the request made by the UN secretary general to the Security Council to adopt sanctions against Israel for failing to comply with Resolution 799?

[Peres] Well, the thing that saddens me most is not the request in itself as much as the bias in Resolution 799. It contains no reference to Hamas, to its extremist program, or to the terrorist actions carried out not only against Israeli citizens but also against Palestinians "guilty" of favoring negotiations. That is what I find unfair.

[De Giovannangeli] It is widely felt that the international community, and primarily the United States, continues to pursue a policy of "double standards" in the Middle East. In other words, military action is taken against Iraq for failing to comply with UN resolutions, but no punitive action is taken against Israel...

[Peres] Of course a policy of "double standards" is being pursued, but against Israel. Sanctions are generally imposed on countries threatening world security and peace. I ask you: Is that the case with Israel? We are fighting a battle against a terrorist organization the central point of whose statute calls for the "destruction of the Zionist state." Our actions can be disputed, individual acts can be criticized, but it has to be recognized that we are fundamentally right. As for the temporary expulsion measures taken against Hamas, I still think it is possible to reach a compromise solution, and that is what underlies my government's latest proposals. But a compromise can never be based on total acceptance of Hamas' requests. Because that would mean giving the victory to the fundamentalists. And if Hamas wins, peace will be lost. Forever.

[De Giovannangeli] If the Supreme Court rules that the expulsion measure is illegal, would that be the equivalent, in your government's view, of a victory for Hamas?

[Peres] No, it would only be a victory for a democratic state's legal system. One thing is certain: In our view, the High Court has the last word in this affair. Whatever its ruling.

[De Giovannangeli] Mr. Minister, after the UN secretary general's request, have you received any assurances from the White House that there will be an American veto on any sanctions against Israel?

[Peres] Before the United States decides to intervene, there must be a concrete proposal for sanctions on the Security Council's table, and I do not think there will be one.

[De Giovannangeli] Among the requests made by Butrus-Ghali to the Security Council member states, there was one to set up "permanent monitoring" of the occupied territories. What is your view of that?

[Peres] Against whom is this "monitoring" to be directed? Against Israel, whose political and policing activities are constantly subjected to the judgment of domestic and international authorities, or against the Hamas terrorists? In the terms in which it has been formulated, the proposal appears at the very least to have some "gaps" in it.

[De Giovannangeli] At this delicate moment do you think a visit by Butrus-Ghali to Israel would be useful?

[Peres] There is no problem as far as we are concerned. It is up to the UN secretary general to choose the most opportune moment.

[De Giovannangeli] Do you not fear that this crisis could jeopardize the economic links which your country has recently established with the EEC?

[Peres] I hope not. Besides, the European Community knows full well that only a strengthening of cooperation with all the states and peoples of the region can contribute to the growth of social welfare in the Middle East. And this growth is essential in order to achieve peace.

[De Giovannangeli] The Palestinian delegation, in agreement with the PLO, has decided not to take part in the next round of peace talks if Israel does not repeal the expulsion measures affecting the 415 Islamic activists. What is your assessment of this decision?

[Peres] It is a grave political error which strengthens Hamas, isolating the Palestinians even from their own Arab partners in the negotiations.

[De Giovannangeli] But the Palestinian leaders most in favor of dialogue maintain the exact opposite: namely, that it is your government, by its decision to deport the Hamas activists, which is playing into the fundamentalists' hands.

[Peres] I absolutely disagree. The truth is that in the Palestinian camp there is a violent minority which seriously conditions the majority's actions. It is no accident that the Islamic extremists' attacks intensified just as an agreement seemed on the verge of being reached at the negotiating table over transitional self-government for the territories. We have offered and continue to offer a historic opportunity to the Palestinians: to hold free elections within two months in Gaza and the West Bank, without any political or military interference from us. That is the best way to sanction the balance of powers between the various components, out in the open, and to give legitimacy to a new class of leaders, the ones with whom Israel will negotiate the definitive status of the territories. For our part, we will respect the response of the ballot box: Whoever is elected will become an inevitable interlocutor in the peace negotiations.

[De Giovannangeli] Even if he or she is elected on the PLO ticket?

[Peres] Of course.

[De Giovannangeli] In this context, how do you view the decision made by the Israeli Parliament to repeal the law prescribing a prison sentence for anyone having any contact with PLO members?

[Peres] That vote is an important step forward along the path to dialogue. And the Palestinians are making a mistake in failing to understand its strategic importance.

[De Giovannangeli] One last question, Mr. Minister. If the Security Council were to decide to adopt sanctions against Israel, what would your response be?

[Peres] It is too early to address this issue, and anyway, I repeat, I do not think it will come to that. But if it does, it would be to the advantage only of the Islamic extremists, and certainly not of the Palestinian people or the moderate Arab regimes. Sanctions would deal an extremely severe blow, possibly a death blow, to the negotiating process, thus ending any hopes of finally reaching a just and stable peace in the Middle East.

Rabinovich on Talks With Syria, Ambassadorial Goals

TA2901194793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Studio interview with Itamar Rabinovich, chief delegate to talks with Syria and ambassador-designate to the United States, by Shlomo Ganor, broadcast in progress; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rabinovich] In the Israeli-Syrian track, there is now a possibility of achieving a joint declaration of principles. The possibility is not viable at this moment, but it may become so in the spring. Syrian announcements have stated as much, while the cautious but optimistic declarations from Israel have in fact asserted much the same.

[Ganor] Have there been Israeli-Syrian contacts since the talks were discontinued a month-and-a-half ago?

[Rabinovich] I regret to say there have been none, and not because of us, but because the Syrians are very particular about talking with us during formal talks and in the conference halls only. Thus, there have been no more contacts, I regret to say.

[Ganor] The prime minister says 1993 will be a year of progress and achievement. Does he mean that an agreement with Syria will be achieved?

[Rabinovich] I think we would like to achieve an agreement with any party we can, and I think the chances on the Syrian track are good. It can happen in 1993, and in this sense, I think the Israeli assessment is correct. I believe we have managed to convince outside elements, the observers—most significantly, the United States—that this is the situation, that we have done what we were supposed to do. I think the statements President Clinton has made on this issue since his election prove that he is likewise of the opinion that Israel has made important steps, that while Syria has responded in a certain way, the next step should be made by Syria, not Israel.

[Ganor] Does the issue of the removed men affect the future of the peace process and the Syrian stance?

[Rabinovich] Right now it presents an obstacle, but things are interdependent. I have been saying since the start that because of circumstances unrelated to the deportee issue, because of the administration change, the peace delegations dispersed on 17 December without setting a meeting for either January or February because we did not know—the Arabs and Israel alike—what the U.S. plans were going to be. Now that the High Court of Justice has announced its ruling, the issue will have to be decided this week.

[Ganor] What is the earliest date possible for the resumption of talks?

[Rabinovich] I think there is a fair chance to resume them in February. No substantial talks will be possible prior to the secretary of state's visit here and prior to high-level Israeli visits to the United States. Thus, the talks can achieve no tangible progress before March or April.

[Ganor] Next week you will take up your post as ambassador in Washington as the new U.S. Administration will be still getting installed. What will be your highest priority?

[Rabinovich] Three things will be my immediate priority. First of all, I will have to build a network of connections and understandings and establish a modus operandi with the new administration. Second, there is a need to establish an understanding with regard to the peace process. And third, we will have to agree on the place of the peace process in a more general view during this era of important changes in the region. Right after its induction, the administration found itself dealing both with the peace process and the Gulf problem, and it is important for us to reach an understanding and, to the extent possible, a shared outlook on the peace process in particular and the region in general.

[Ganor] Your acquaintance with administration figures is bound to be helpful.

[Rabinovich] Yes, I am acquainted—both due to the peace process and to other connections—with quite a few of the people who deal with the Middle East on behalf of the administration. It will surely help.

[Ganor] As ambassador, will you continue being active in the peace process?

[Rabinovich] I will at this stage at least.

[Ganor] As head of the Israeli delegation to talks with Syria?

[Rabinovich] Yes. I think that as long as the peace talks are held in Washington, and in this period when it is important to reach a common outlook with the administration, I would say these two tasks complement each other.

[Ganor] Good luck, Mr. Ambassador.

[Rabinovich] Thank you very much.

MK Dayan Comments on Meeting With 'Arafat

TA3101121393 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 31 Jan 93 p 6

[Report by Aharon Barne'a]

[Excerpt] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Ya'el Dayan conferred with Yasir 'Arafat and his close associates twice on Friday, at noon and in the evening. Attending the meeting alongside 'Arafat were Faysal al-Husayni, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Dr. Nabil Sha'th. The second encounter was also attended by 'Arafat's wife, Suha, whom Dayan knows from the time she still lived in Ramallah.

In a phone conversation from Tunis, Dayan told HADASHOT: "On the one hand this is in no way a negotiation, of course. On the other hand, they poured their hearts out, including on issues currently on the agenda of the negotiations. I had quite a few surprises, including my initial reaction to the man. I was rather anxious, not on account of my personal safety but rather at the thought of sitting in front of a man responsible for the death of many people. When you sit with such a man you cannot forget his past. Nevertheless, because of his past and his leadership, there is no question whatsoever that this is the man one should listen to.

"After two days with 'Arafat and the men surrounding him, including Faysal al-Husayni, I realize there is very good chemistry among all members of this top group. They listen to each other. When 'Arafat talks the room does not fall silent in awe; they argue with him. He is well versed in the issues, he is aware of all the ins and outs, of every twitch of Elyaqim Rubinstein's.

[Barne'a] What was 'Arafat's response to the High Court of Justice ruling?

[Dayan] He was surprised that I was pleased with it. He said he could not disassociate himself from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] because "they may be fools, but they are our fools." I realize that the mistrust in the wake of the deportations is definitely mutual. They, too, are no longer all that confident in Labor's wish to attain peace.

[Barne'a] Are they really determined not to resume the peace talks as long as the problem of the deportees remains unsolved?

[Dayan] They are in quite a distressing situation in this respect. They claim, and I had no answer to give them, that the ascendancy of Hamas is our own doing and is a problem to which a solution must be found. They are still counting on a UN Security Council resolution. They cannot say that they will report to the next round of the talks. If you ask them point blank, none of them will say that they will continue to stay out of the talks if the deportees are arrested or detained. They cannot wash their hands of the issue, but on the other hand, they are not looking for ways to terminate the talks.

[Barne'a] Did you discern any change in the PLO's known positions?

[Dayan] First of all, what we are told are 'Arafat's prerequisites are simply not true. He fully accepts the framework of the interim arrangements. He talked about Jerusalem, the right of return, and compensation, but these were not key issues. It would be unfair to the man and to their struggle for an arrangement to say that they are merely marking time seeing that without Jerusalem, the right of return, a phased solution, and terror they are not interested in the peace process.

I came out feeling that they are willing to go for the most basic format of the Camp David accords with regard to the self government, not because of distress but because they are fully committed. It is not true that 'Arafat is opposed to elections in the territories and that there are disagreements between him and Faysal al-Husayni. The elections could be held even before an arrangement is reached on very substantial issues pertaining to the autonomy.

[Barne'a] Now that the meeting is over, are you sure it was a worthwhile effort?

[Dayan] Not only was it worthwhile, but more such meetings should be held. A permanent think tank should be set up; one is certainly in order. The paranoia that only three men have the privilege of running the affairs of the Palestinian people ought to be dropped. In my opinion, the door here is wide open. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Rejects Rabin Attacks on EC

TA2801134893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday found it necessary to reprimand Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the European Parliament, after the EC decided to suspend the negotiations with Israel on an amendment to the economic agreements between them.

According to authoritative Foreign Ministry sources, the EC has made no such decision.

An announcement by the prime minister's bureau issued after the meeting with Martinez said in Rabin's name that "the decision to suspend the negotiations on changing the economic agreement of 1975 is very regrettable, and in the eyes of many Israelis, strengthens the feeling that Europe is not objective."

His remarks aroused major surprise in the Foreign Ministry, which has in recent weeks been in contact with EC institutions on an amendment to the agreements. It was recently decided that the deliberations on principles will be held during Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' meeting with the 12 EC foreign ministers in Brussels next week, and it was agreed that the actual negotiations will start in March. At the same time, there are ongoing contacts on issues linked to the amendment of the agreements.

The prime minister's bureau said in reaction to the Foreign Ministry "surprise," that Rabin believes that Europe has suspended the talks and that the Foreign Ministry "is naturally trying to smooth things over." Sources in the bureau also noted that Martinez did not issue a denial after hearing Rabin's criticism.

The Foreign Ministry responded by saying that "Rabin simply does not know what he is talking about." They say the lack of response by Martinez is due to the fact that the institution he heads, the European Parliament, is not at all linked to the European Commission, and does not deal with ongoing negotiations between it and Israel. On the other hand, the Spanish ambassador in Israel, who attended the meeting with Rabin, knew that the prime minister referred to things that do not really exist, but decided to remain mum.

The "differences of opinion" came against the background of the cancellation of next month's planned visit by an official delegation from the European Commission. Foreign Ministry sources reported said the visit was in doubt even before the expulsion of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists on 17 December, and only later did several officials try to claim that the cancellation—at first officially announced as due to technical difficulties—was also aimed at protesting the deportation. Anyway, the sources said that since then the differences have been resolved and it has been agreed to continue the negotiations. It is possible that an announcement on the matter will be issued during Peres' stay in Brussels.

Rabin told Martinez that Europe's stand on the Middle East conflict is based on the Venice Declaration of 1980 and is even closer to the Arab positions than Egypt is. He raised with his guest also the problem of Israel's trade gap with Europe and noted that an increase in Israeli exports to Europe by $1 billion will create 20,000 new jobs in Israel.

Martinez said that Europe supports the war against terrorism and does not tell Israel now to fight the phenomenon. He expressed his concern about "the exaggerated proportions" the deportee issue has taken on compared to the important processes in the region, such as the peace process. He invited Rabin to visit his country and said that the cancellation of King Juan Carlos' visit to Israel was due to the grave illness of his father and for any other reason, including a protest over the deportation.

Khan Yunus Boy Dies; Driver Wounded in Nabulus

TA0102122093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Twelve-year-old Ahil Yusuf Muhammad from the Khan Yunus refugee camp, who was wounded during the dispersal of riots four days ago, died of his wounds today at Tel Hashomer Hospital. This is reported by our correspondent Gil Litman.

The driver of an Israeli bus was slightly wounded in a stone-throwing incident in Nabulus. He was treated on the spot.

Deputies Urge End to Boycotts on Arab Countries

NC3001225393 Paris AFP in English 2024 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, Jan 30 (AFP)—Forty Jordanian parliamentarians Saturday put forth a draft law that would bar Amman from applying an embargo against a fellow Arab country, indirectly calling for not obeying UN sanctions on Iraq.

The MPs, mostly fundamentalists, asked the speaker of parliament to move on the bill urgently.

The bill said "the Jordanian Government does not have the right to boycott any Arab country, nor to close its borders to it, nor to apply in any fashion against it a commercial embargo by land, sea or air."

Jordan has been applying UN resolutions which called for an embargo on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Fundamentalists control one third of the 80-seat Jordanian parliament.

Action Called 'Electioneering'

JN3101095693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jan 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Forty deputies of the 80-member Lower House of Parliament have demanded that Jordan adopt a special law banning the Kingdom from closing its borders with any neighbouring Arab state or imposing a sea, land or air trade embargo on Arab countries. The demand, which came in a letter to the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, was an obvious reference to the Kingdom's compliance with internationally-imposed embargo against Iraq.

In the one-page statement, which was sent to the JORDAN TIMES Saturday, the deputies said that this law would be in response to the democratic will of the Arab peoples which have faith in Arab unity and reject "colonialist designs to divide the Arab World."

Government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity lashed out at the move by the deputies describing it as an effort to upstage the government and an attempt to gain public sympathy ahead of this year's national elections.

"It is very obvious that this manoeuvre is for electioneering purposes," one government source told the JORDAN TIMES, adding that the step can only be seen as "an obvious game."

The source explained that since the deputies are aware of how far Jordan had gone to support the Iraqi people during the Gulf crisis and war and how the Kingdom continued to be an "open window between Iraq and the rest of the world."

"Any attempt by them to upset the balance now can only do disservice to both Iraq's interest and those of the Kingdom especially under the current international circumstances," the source added.

"Jordan has proved that it is more Arab than any other Arab state and there is no need for any person to behave as if he can do any more than the government had done," said another official.

"This move is designed to benefit individuals who want to register on their political record that they had supported the Iraqi people," another well-placed official said, adding that the proposed law can go no farther than stroking the emotions of the Jordanian people.

The 40 signatories, most of whom are Islamists or members of the leftist coalition bloc in the House, cited the first article of the Constitution, which stipulates that the Kingdom is "an independent sovereign Arab state" as the basis for their argument against any negative measure against Arab countries.

In the preamble to their proposed one-paragraph law, the signatories said that this law would preempt any division of the Arab World and maintain a state of Arab unity in which the Arab peoples have full faith.

The text of the special law, as proposed in the signatories' letter, says that "the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan cannot sever relations with any other Arab state and it cannot close its border with any of the Arab states and it is categorically banned from imposing an embargo on trade in any of its forms by land, sea or air against any Arab state."

This move comes a week after a group of 300 leading Jordanian personalities signed a statement urging the government to break the international embargo on Iraq which went into effect in August of 1990 at the beginning of the Gulf crisis.

In their statement, the Jordanian politicians, including some of the signatories of the new statement, said Jordan "should spearhead Arab efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi peopel."

There was no official reaction to the old letter, but many government members privately criticised its contents and described it at the time as an attempt to outbid the government on the question of relations with Iraq. The signatories of Saturday's letter included: 'Abd-al-Karim al- Dughmi, Salim al-Zu'bi, Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, Dhib Marji, 'Isa al-Rimuni, Mansur Murad, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, Dawud Qujaq, Ibrahim Mansur, Kamil al-'Umari, Ibrahim Khuraysat , Ahmad al-Kufahi, Ziyad abu-Mahfuz, Ahmad al-Kafawin, Muhammad al-Haj, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, Hammam Sa'id, Yusuf al-'Azm, Dhib Anis, Hamzah Mansur, Yusuf al-Khasawinah, Fawzi Shakir al- Tu'aymah, Fakhri Qa'war, 'Ali al-Faqir, Muhammad Dardur, Ahmad 'Innab, Husayn Mujalli, Husni al-Shayyyab, 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, Muhammad al-'Alawinah, Muhamad Bakhit al-Mu'ar'ar, Muhammad al- Azayidah, Sa'd Haddadin, 'Ali al-Hawamidah, Faris al-Nabulsi, 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, Ya'qub Jum'ah Qirrish, 'Abd-al-Hafiz al- 'Alawinah, Bassam Haddadin, and Layth Shubaylat.

'Arafat Arrives in Amman En Route to Baghdad

JN0102104693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] In Amman, a well-informed Palestinian source has stated that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Jordanian capital this morning from Cairo and that he will leave later for Baghdad.

'Arafat's visit to Baghdad, the first in two years, comes at a time when the Palestinians are coming closer to the Gulf countries, particularly to Saudi Arabia.

Reliable sources say that during his stay in Amman, 'Arafat will hold talks with Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the peace process and the deportees issue, on the eve of a possible UN Security Council session to discuss this issue.

U.S. Asks Government To Delay Action on Deportees

NC3001074493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has submitted a second report to the UN Security Council asking it to adopt measures to force Israel to implement Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the deportees.

The United States, meanwhile, is still trying to find a solution to the problem after having asked the UN Security Council to postpone its meeting on the issue.

In an extraordinary meeting on Monday, the Council of Ministers will discuss developments in this issue. President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri have received communications from Lebanese Ambassador in Washington Simon Karam conveying the U.S. Administration's request that Lebanon give the United States time to find a solution to this problem.

U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker informed Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz about his country's request that Lebanon give the issue a few days more. [passage omitted]

Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, met with Lebanese Ambassador Simon Karam the day before yesterday to discuss the issue.

THE NEW YORK TIMES cited Ambassador Karam as saying that Lebanon has accepted the request. The U.S. ambassadors in the region conveyed similar requests to other Arab parties.

Spokesman Holds News Conference on Deportees

NC0102124593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Intensive contacts on the local, regional, and international levels are under way to work out a swift solution to the Palestinian deportees issue. The deportees' health is deteriorating due to adverse weather and the shortage of food and medicine.

Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, held a news conference this morning. Dr. al-Rantisi dealt with the tragic situation the deportees are experiencing amid snowstorms and severe frost. He said that the Security Council faces a real test today; whether to maintain its dignity or lose it forever.

During his news conference, al-Rantisi said that the United States will not use its veto because it will lose credibility among its allies. He urged UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to pressure Israel to submit to international law.

Touching on Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid's visit to the camp, al-Rantisi said: Lebanon has every right to allow or ban entries into Lebanon. But al-Rantisi considered the visit a positive step demonstrating the Arab League's concern over the deportees issue. Dr. al-Rantisi expressed hope that Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid will not bring with him a solution that runs counter to Resolution 799.

Rejects Partial Return

NC3101154893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Palestinian deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi has rejected any partial return of the deportees.

He was responding to the enemy prime minister, who agreed to immediately take back one-third of the deportees. He said that [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin should respect international legitimacy and implement Resolution 799, which provides for returning the deportees immediately, not after one or two months.

Buwayz on Israel, U.S. Efforts on Deportees

NC3001174793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the Israeli Government has made a double or multifaceted blunder [regarding the Palestinian deportees issue].

He said Israel made its calculations on the basis that there is no state or government in Lebanon. He noted that the first mistake Israel made was not expecting Lebanon to refuse entry to the Palestinian deportees. He said the second mistake was that Israel thought any decision by the Lebanese Government would cause divisions between Christians and Muslims on this issue. The third mistake was that Israel thought any decision by the Lebanese Government would create disagreement between the Lebanese and Palestinians.

Commenting on the Israeli court ruling, Buwayz said that despite this decision, there are intensive U.S. and international efforts to address this issue. This is because all parties realize that this challenge to the Security Council may open the door for other challenges by other countries and create a precedent for other states to refuse to implement Security Council resolutions, using the Israeli actions as pretexts.

Commentary Says U.S. Will Use Veto To Rescue Israel

NC3001112593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Station commentary: "The Farce of Courts and Rulings"]

[Text] There is only one link between Security Council Resolution 799, which stipulates that the deportees be returned to their land, and the Zionist High Court ruling, which supported the Zionist government decision. This link is the United States, which believes it has to support the Zionist ruling and oppose the international decision. Washington is not concerned as much about executing international will as it is about supporting the Zionist entity's policies and steps; therefore, it comes as no surprise that Washington has done all it could to ensure the issuance of any sanctions against Israel. This is its habit in politics and stands. However, the surprise lies in the fact that Israel, which used the United States to get a discussion on possible sanctions against it postponed, issued this Court ruling, which represents a slap in the face to all attempts to resolve the situation. This all confirms that Israel was neither embarrassed by its decision to expel the Palestinians nor by the Court's ruling to support the original decision. Israel also wants to transfer the embarrassment to others. Washington is now in an embarrassing position because it has defended Israel since its establishment. In fact, it thwarted all international draft resolutions condemning Zionist practices and asking for sanctions to force it to stop its aggressive policies.

Washington, however, is being embarrassed by another aspect: The case of supporting and implementing international legitimacy. It exaggerates the application of resolutions against Iraq to the extent that it implements them in a suspicious manner that raises doubts about its motives. At the same time, it does not show any interest in implementing resolutions of international legitimacy regarding the occupied territories. A greater embarrassment would be if the Security Council decides to impose sanctions on Israel, while Washington decides to rescue the Zionists with its veto.

It would be the first time the United States has used its veto in the past few years, and the first time a veto has been used in the Security Council for two years. These first-time occurrences have their significance. When Washington resorts to the veto, it means it opposes the viewpoint of the majority of the international community. This damages the U.S. reputation and influence because it always attempts to emerge as the leader in the international community. Washington recently tried to give the impression that the Security Council has become a harmonized institution under the U.S. leadership; that the age of vetoes, which reflect the contradictions and opposition in viewpoints, has ended; and that the highest organization in the international community is an integrated and harmonized organization that performs its role in the framework of international peace.

Will Washington go against the unanimous stands and expose its already shaken credibility to an even more violent shake-up? Statements by U.S. officials have given the impression that they are trying to hamper the convening of the Security Council to save itself even more embarrassment. Statements by Zionist government officials give the impression that they are satisfied with the friendly and supportive U.S. stand. Washington is trying to influence the Arabs to decrease their campaign and get time to resolve the issue through diplomatic means. Washington does not feel that Chapter 7 applies to the deportees.

Washington got involved in the issue by using its influence in an attempt to freeze the file or give it more time. However, the result has been that this open file, which the Clinton administration got from the moment it entered the White House, will directly affect the American role in the future of the region, including the issue of the negotiations, which will be the sacrifice presented at the table of ongoing conflict. The alternative is for the Arabs, or some of them, God forbid, to give this issue a chance and not embarrass and anger the Americans.

Buwayz Says Israeli Escalation in South Expected

NC3001130493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz believes that yesterday's Israeli escalation was expected, especially after the UN Interim Force in Lebanon's term was renewed. The renewal signifies that Israel is an occupying power.

On the deportees, Editors' Doyen Milhim Karam cited Minister Buwayz as saying that the Lebanese Government received a request that it not make a stand on the issue too quickly. The note also implied that Israel is being pressured to reverse its deportee decision and court ruling.

Buwayz said: If this is an issue that will take hours or even days, we will allow it to run its course. After that, Lebanon can take its expected stand on this important issue. Karam said Buwayz denied that disputes are delaying some diplomatic appointments. He said: The reason for the delay is partly legislative and partly administrative.

Rejection of Arab League Chief's Visit Denied

NC3101182893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 31 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that contacts and consultations between the Lebanese Government and the Arab League are continuing to arrange for Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to Lebanon. He noted that the final date of the visit has not yet been agreed.

In an exclusive statement to MENA in Beirut this evening, Buwayz denied a report by a Lebanese paper that Lebanon rejects the Arab League secretary general's visit to the Palestinian deportees' camp in Marj al-Zuhur. Buwayz said that Lebanon welcomes Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's visit anytime he sees fit and will make the necessary arrangements for him to visit Marj al-Zuhur through consultations with Lebanese officials. He emphasized that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's visit is to follow up on the results of the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo and seeks to consolidate the Lebanese position. Buwayz noted that there have been contacts in the past few days between the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and the Arab League. In this regard, Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dr. Ahmad 'Adil has visited Beirut and proposed positive initiatives on behalf of Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid to consolidate the Lebanese stand, resolve the deportees problem, and exert all possible efforts in this regard.

Buwayz added that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid made three proposals to Lebanon. The first includes his readiness to visit Lebanon and discuss all the officials' requests regarding the deportees crisis. In his second proposal, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his readiness to call for an urgent Arab League Council meeting to assess the situation from all sides. The third proposal involved his readiness to travel to the United States to meet with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Arab UN delegates, and the representatives of all the friendly states to strengthen the Arab stand and thereby resolve the deportees question, secure implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, and pressure Israel.

Buwayz noted that the Lebanese Government had welcomed and expressed satisfaction with these constructive proposals by 'Abd-al- Majid and thanked him for his efforts to implement the Arab foreign ministers' resolutions. Buwayz noted that Lebanon has informed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid that intensive U.S. efforts are under way to pressure Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 799 and that the United States has asked Lebanon not to take any action before these efforts are completed. Therefore, Buwayz added, Lebanon asked the Arab League secretary general to begin his efforts should the U.S. efforts to pressure Israel on implementing the Security Council resolution fail.

Buwayz concluded by saying that Lebanon is ready to welcome Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's visit at any time.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 31 January adds: "An adviser to Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has told AFP that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has no choice but to travel through Lebanese territory to the deportees camp. He added that Lebanon wants enough time to discuss the matter, because so far it has refused to allow travel to the deportees camp through territory controlled by the Lebanese Army."]

Buwayz on Peace Talks, Repairing Infrastructure

NC3101153993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has pointed out that no invitation has been received for a new round of Middle East peace talks. He said that 20 February is merely a speculative date and a rumor circulating among political circles.

In an interview with the Voice of the People radio and the new [al-jadid] television [not further identified], Buwayz said the cordon states will not meet before an invitation is received to the new round of negotiations. He added that the future of these negotiations depends on several factors, including the position of the new U.S. Administration and the way it will deal with the deportees issue. Buwayz said it is difficult to say that the U.S. Administration will be serious in forcing Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories unless it is serious in pressuring Israel to return the deportees to their homes.

Regarding the government situation, Buwayz denied that the administration is doing nothing. He said that this government, which took over responsibility for a country whose infrastructure was nearly destroyed and virtually nonexistent, faces two options: either it will haphazardly repair what can be repaired in order to produce quick results and satisfy the people, or it will implement a medium-or long-range plan involving reforms and repairs. If the first option is taken this only will delay the problem, which will erupt again within a year or two. Buwayz added: This government has decided to draw up a strategy for its efforts and to repair the infrastructure in line with technical plans and according to a specific outlook. The disadvantage of such a policy is that it needs more time; but in the long-run, it will be more systematic. Buwayz said: Let us be frank. It is too early to judge the work of this government. Its fruits will not appear immediately. There are a number of things which may take a long time to accomplish.

Referring to administrative reforms, he said: Everyone thinks that governments can carry out administrative reforms within one or two weeks or one or three months, but this is not true. He then noted the shortages in various sectors and listed six bases for administrative reform that will require years to implement.

Regarding appointments, the foreign minister said it is not easy to choose people for responsible positions, referring to several factors including moral, professional, regional, and sectarian issues which cannot be disregarded at this time. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Leaders Accept Saudi Mediation Offer

BK3101132093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 31 (AFP)—Six top Afghan leaders have accepted mediation offered by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd as diplomatic efforts intensified to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan, sources here said.

Saudi Ambassador Yusuf al-Mutabbakani left for Saudi Arabia on Sunday while Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is planning to travel to the kingdom from Switzerland on Wednesday for consultations with the monarch, the sources said.

Official sources here said Sharif will discuss ways to nudge warring Afghan factions toward holding a peace conference in Saudi Arabia as offered by King Fahd a few days ago.

Six Afghan leaders at a two-day meeting in the eastern city of Jalalabad accepted the Saudi king's invitation "in principle" and "a majority" of them called for an end to the bloody fighting in Afghanistan, a communique received here from moderate leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's Afghan National Liberation Front said.

However, a special emissary of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani refused to accept a ceasefire with the "aggressor" Hezb-e- Eslami mojahedin faction, led by dissident leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

"If Hekmatyar is not checked properly, his terrorist activities would prove detrimental not only for Afghanistan, but also for the whole region," Noorullah Emad told a news conference Saturday, as rival forces continued to attack each other in a stalemated military situation.

The meeting at Jalalabad also revived the leadership council disbanded by Rabbani after his re-election by a consultative council last month.

Hekmatyar, whose fighters have been engaged in a battle for Kabul for about two weeks, was represented at the Jalalabad meeting by his deputy, Amin Waqad.

Other participants included moderate leaders Syed Ahmad Gilani of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, Mohammed Nabi Mohammadi of Harekat-e-Enquilab Eslami and two Shi'ite party leaders, Asif Mohseni of Harekat-e-Eslami and Mohammed Fazli of Hezb-e-Wahdat.

Yunus Khales, chief of another Hezb faction abstained from the meeting after reportedly objecting to the presence of rival Shi'ite sect delegates, while another Sunni leader, Rasol Sayyaf of the Saudi-backed Ettehad-e-Eslami, has already allied with the coalition government of Rabbani's Jami'at-e-Eslami faction.

The communique said the Afghan leaders called for holding general elections within one year, adding that Rabbani's election was invalid.

In a six-point peace formula, Hekmatyar last week called upon Rabbani to step down in favour of an interim government for holding elections within six months.

Earlier, the exiled Afghan King Zaher Shah also proposed a peace plan for convening an emergency Loya Jirga, or tribal chiefs gathering, under the U.N. aegis to set up a provisional government pending elections.

Pakistan meanwhile has emphasised the need for establishing a "broad-based government" urging Rabbani to open talks with all former colleagues of the 14-year anti-communist war in Kabul.

The Afghan leaders should launch a second "jihad," or holy struggle, for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country, President Ishaq Khan recently told Emad.

Both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia extended political and material support to the Afghan factions to sustain their jihad, which culminated with the take over of Kabul by a Mojahedin Islamic government in April.

Labour Minister Ejazul Haq, son of late president Mohammed Ziaul Haq, also announced Sunday that he would undertake a peace mission to Afghanistan after Sharif's talks with King Fahd.

Analysts believe the mounting international pressure amid diminishing foreign aid might bring the warring leaders to the negotiating table.

Efforts for a durable peace have met with failure in the past because of deep-rooted mistrust, ethnic and religious rivalries and power-sharing disputes among the heavily armed groups, all of which hold their own zones of influence, they said.

Clashes With Hekmatyar Forces Reported in Kabul

LD0102124193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Clashes between the government forces and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami continued throughout last night and this morning. According to our correspondent Gudarzi in Kabul, the two sides had attacked each other's positions using various kinds of heavy weapons. Several rockets hit residential areas in the center of Kabul. According to the report, the clashes have become less intense since this morning.

According to a government military official, the forces of the Supervisory Council [Shura-ye Nuzar] and Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami also spent all last night fighting each other at Baqbala Pass, west of Kabul. Each side has been blaming the other for starting the battle.

Meanwhile, a Hezb-e Eslami military source has said that yesterday the forces of that party captured four government positions and a military base in west Kabul and on the periphery of the War University. The source pointed out that, as a result of Hezb-e Eslami's artillery fire, an ammunition depot in Kheyrkhaneh district in the north of Kabul, in which the military units of the Supervisory Council had been based, was destroyed.

On the other hand, clashes broke out between forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Sayyaf's Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami, in west Kabul.

According to the Voice and Vision correspondent, 14 days since the outbreak of violence the situation in Kabul remains unstable. Shops are closed, and people have difficulty obtaining basic necessities.

Ministry Source on Differences in Hekmatyar Ranks

LD3001172993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Following mopping-up operations and attacks on the positions of the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar by the military forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, differences and [word indistinct] have intensified between Hezb-e Eslami members and Golboddin himself.

A responsible source in the Ministry of Defense has told a correspondent of BAKHTAR's military section that units of the Islamic State carried out air and artillery attacks on the heavy weapon positions and concentration points of Golboddin's agitating forces in the southern and southeastern directions. They killed or injured a large number of the enemy forces and destroyed several heavy weapon firing positions. The source added that the enemy attempted to attack the Pol-e Charkhi prison in the southern direction but was confronted with courageous resistance by the units of the Islamic State. The enemy attack was totally foiled and as a result of this failed attack over 15 of the enemy were killed and dozens were injured. In the counterattack launched by the Islamic forces, several of the enemy's heavy weapons were also destroyed.

The Ministry of Defense source added that the morale of Golboddin's forces is very low and profound differences [word indistinct] erupted in their ranks. Some of Golboddin's commanders are not obeying his orders and do not wish to fight against the forces of the Islamic State.

In the enemy's recent attempt to attack the Pol-e Charkhi prison, for which Golboddin deployed men from a number of provinces, serious objections arose in these provinces to the dispatch of these men to Kabul to fight against the Islamic State and mojahedin.

Commentary Sets Conditions for Peace With Hezb-e Eslami

LD2901180293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The mopping-up operations by the forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan demonstrate two political outcomes. First, the combat ability of the State Armed Forces is at a level that ensures the interest and safety of society. Second, Golboddin's rioting forces are a small, but armed group within Hezb-e Eslami, which has given a fearful characteristic to that party. A political commentator of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY writes:

The aim of the operations, as was stressed several times by authoritative sources in the Ministry of Defense, has been to eliminate missile positions of the rioters' forces, which have created a flood of killing in Kabul city three times since the victory of the Islamic revolution, and martyred, injured, or made homeless thousands of innocent people.

It seems now that a large section of the oppositions' missile positions have been destroyed and dozens of them have been put out of action. These victories have placed the features of Golboddin's rioting forces in an unfavorable position. On one hand, repeated military defeat has broken the morale of the rioter forces and, on the hand, their characteristics as deadly and fearful forces have become more obvious to the country's mojahedin.

The jehadi forces from the various provinces, including commanders linked with Hezb-e Eslami, demand the complete crushing of the rioters. Activities against the rioters in the provinces around Kabul have caused a blockade of their supply and transport routes outside the present parameters of fighting.

At the same time, new efforts have begun to create a temporary peace and short-term compromise, which in the past unfortunately caused new headaches, and each time the rioting forces took advantage and began to strengthen their positions. Naturally, the Islamic State of Afghanistan welcomes any type of effort that is aimed at ensuring a permanent peace and consolidation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and has always kept the door to negotiations open to all forces.

However, one cannot ignore the concern of the people with regard to the prospect of a fragile and temporary peace. To each Kabul citizen who has come under the missile attack of the rioting forces three times and has lost loved ones, peace and a decisive crushing of the rioters has only one meaning. This question is also discussed among the reasonable and farsighted personalities of Hezb-e Eslami, that Golboddin and Hezb-e Eslami are two separate phenomenon. Without the existence of Golboddin, Hezb-e Eslami would turn into a (?calm) and political party.

Therefore, Kabul citizens and all the people of the country are hoping that the peace efforts, along with all their goodwill gestures, will able to fulfill two issues: First, those positions from which the city has always been targeted should be handed over to the forces of the Islamic State Army, along with their heavy weapons. Second, it should be guaranteed that no more missiles should be fired on Kabul and that any fighting against the Islamic State should be officially banned.

The rest of the issue depends on Hezb-e Eslami itself to decide its destiny and any role in the future of the country logically.

India

Russia's Yeltsin Concludes Official Visit

Leaves for Home

BK2901131693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has ruled out any military or technical aid to Pakistan. Addressing members of parliament and eminent citizens in the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi today, he declared firm support for India's stand on Kashmir. Amid repeated cheers in his 50-minute [as heard] speech, the Russian president made it clear that the friendship and cooperation treaty signed by India and Russia is not directed against any third country, but aims at protecting India's sovereignty, unity, and integrity. He was emphatic about Russia's support to New Delhi in its bid to improve relations with China and Pakistan.

Mr. Yeltsin hoped that the trade potential between India and Russia will be exploited fully, moving up to $2.5 billion this year and an increase of another $1 billion by next year.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who also addressed the gathering, said that he looks forward to the consolidation of Russian democracy and tapping of rich resources in that country for speedier growth.

Addressing a crowded press conference later, the Russian president proposed setting up of a forum on the line of the Pan-European Center to resolve conflicts, like the one between India and Pakistan, in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Yeltsin said his country will contribute to the setting up of such a center. He said in the Indo-Pakistan conflict on Kashmir, the truth is on the side of India and therefore Russia will support New Delhi's stand on this issue. Mr. Yeltsin clarified that at the same time he does not want his country's relations with Pakistan ruptured because of such a basic issue. President Yeltsin said he is satisfied with his short visit to India.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, making a statement in the press conference, said that Mr. Yeltsin's visit has been very significant and meaningful, covering a wide range of common and global concerns.

The Russian president has since left for home. He was given a ceremonial send-off at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this afternoon at the end of the three-day visit. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; the external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh; and central ministers were present.

More on Rupee-Ruble Agreement

BK2901163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] India and Russia today signed the rupee-ruble agreement aimed at settling New Delhi's outstanding debts to the former Soviet Union. Under the agreement, India would repay a total debt of 31,377 crore rupees out of which 63 percent would be payable over a period of 12 years as per the 1978 protocol in rupee terms.

The principal amount of the debt as of 1 April last year will be converted into rupees at the exchange rate prevailing on 1 January 1990 and also on 1 April 1992. The difference in the two amounts, which is 37 percent and works out to about 11,500 crore rupees, has been rescheduled. This amount will be repaid over a period of 45 years in annual instalments without any interest. The rescheduled debt will not have any protection against fluctuation in the value of the rupee for a period of five years. Thereafter, it will be indexed only if the average annual depreciation of rupees exceeds 3 percent. The agreement signed by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the deputy prime minister of Russia, Mr. Shumeyko, in New Delhi today is expected to stimulate free flow of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Parties Welcome Outcome

BK2901161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Leaders of major political parties have welcomed the outcome of the visit of the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said the Russian leader's assertion on the Kashmir issue and his reendorsement of the position taken by the erstwhile Soviet Union on friendship and cooperation with India are very positive. The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. M. Farooqi, said Mr. Yeltsin's visit is bound to strengthen the traditional relations between the two countries.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. I.K. Gujral, described the visit as a singular success in cementing relations between India and Russia.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has welcomed the new treaty of friendship and cooperation and President Yeltsin's statements on Kashmir issue.

Talking to a high-level Congress-I delegation in New Delhi this morning, Mr. Yeltsin suggested that party-to-party relations should be established between the Congress-I and progressive and forward-looking parties in Russia.

Support for Security Council Membership

BK2901170693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The Indo-Russian relationship received further boost today with the two countries signing the vital rupee-ruble agreement, marking a breakthrough in settling India's outstanding debts to the former Soviet Union. The visiting Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, said India occupies a special place in his country's new foreign policy priorities. He also ruled out any military or technical aid to Pakistan. We bring you these reports covering various achievements made in Indo-Russian relationship. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] At a crowded press conference that President Yeltsin and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, addressed jointly this morning, most of the press meet was devoted to Indo-Russian relations in the current global context. President Yeltsin reasserted Russia's firm support on the Kashmir issue.

[Yeltsin, in Russian with superimposed English translation] (?India) must keep its integrity, must be united and undivided, and we intend to support India's position on Kashmir.

[Reporter] On India's case for permanent membership to UN Security Council, Mr. Yeltsin said:

[Yeltsin, in Russian with superimposed English translation] This question calls for a further scrutiny. We need to take a close look at the principles underlying the formation of the Security Council. But, of course, if this question is brought up for discussion, then I will give a yes vote.

[Reporter] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said:

[Rao] We had a frank and fruitful exchange of views on a number of issues in the sphere of economic, technological, and defense cooperation, resulting in decisions which in my assessment have laid a durable foundation for future friendship and close interaction between our two countries. The results of our discussions manifest the beginning of a new chapter in Indo-Russian relations in the changed global context. [end recording]

Pawar Comments on Defense Pact

BK3001103893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] India and Russia have signed an agreement on defense cooperation. In the agreement, both the countries reiterated their desire to promote defense cooperation for mutual benefit. They expressed their support to the principle of not adversely affecting each other's security interests. They also resolved to promote cooperation through transfer of defense technology and training.

New Delhi and Moscow also signed a new Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. The treaty will be valid for 20 years.

In another agreement, both the countries pledged to help each other in combating terrorism and illegal arms trade. They also signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of culture and scientific cooperation.

The defense minister, Mr. Pawar, told PTI that the agreement on defense cooperation has resolved the issue of supply of spares for the Russian front-line equipment in use with the country's Armed Forces.

Commentary: Visit 'Remarkable Exercise'

BK3001043993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Journalist M.L. Kotru commentary]

[Text] The three-day visit to India by the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has been a remarkable exercise if only for the reason that it has at once lifted bilateral relations from the realm of meaningless platitudes into the realm of reality. For once there has been a dialogue between two countries talking as equals, and not as many in the past would have said between a client state and a superpower. Mr. Yeltsin himself was conscious of the diminutive status of the Russian Federation as distinct from the Soviet Union. It is quite possible that some in this country would have thought that Mr. Yeltsin was not as forthcoming as some of the Soviet leaders who visited this country in the past. But within the changed global framework, Mr. Yeltsin was very conscious of the role the Russain Federation has to play and the importance within this context of the relations between India and his country.

On the concluding day, Mr Yeltsin left no one in doubt about where his country stood in relation to New Delhi. He stated most unambiguously in his joint address to the parliamentarians that Russia was strongly committed to the reality of a united sovereign India. In other words, he was reaffirming his country's stand that it thoroughly disapproved of anyone trying to destabilize India. His support to the Indian position on Kashmir could not have been more specific than it was, although some of his listeners, unable to shake off old habits, would have liked him to say that Russia would militarily support that position. What they forget is that much water has flown down the Volga and the Ganga since the days of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Mr. Yeltsin had a message for exporters of terrorism as well, both in his address to the parliamentarians and at his press conference. And given John Major's opposition to the induction of Germany and Japan into the UN Security Council, Mr. Yeltsin played it cautiously, pledging his support to India's inclusion among the permanent members of the Council if it was ever discussed at the United Nations.

More important was his reassertion of his position that Russia would stand by its commitment to supply cryogenic rocket engines to Indian space program. Indeed, he went on to say that he has already spoken to President

Bill Clinton on the subject twice, and in Yeltsin's words it would be a shame if Russia did not fulfill its commitment. And to conclude a very purposeful visit, Yeltsin even ensured that the old irritant to bilateral relations, the debt owed by India to Russia, is resolved to each other's satisfaction.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, was obviously not overstating the case when he described the Yeltsin visit as a successful one.

New Foundation for Ties

BK3001153093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1545 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Journalist Jagdish Prabhakar commentary carried in "Spotlight" program]

[Text] With the signing of an Indo-Russian treaty of friendship and cooperation by the visiting Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, and the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the resolution of the protracted rupee-ruble exchange rate issue, both the countries have laid down a firm foundation for shaping a new relationship. The treaty pledges cooperation in the economic, political, and other fields to promote better relations in all spheres including defense, science, and technology. Though it does not include the strategic security clause under which the erstwhile Soviet Union and India were committed to each other's defense, it has pledged to support the territorial integrity of the two countries. The preamble of the treaty has also taken note of the 1971 treaty under which India and the former Soviet Union were to consult each other in the event of external aggression.

The signing of the three-point agreement on cooperation in the field of defense by the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and his Russian counterpart, General P.S. Grachev, has reflected the nature of the new relationship the two countries have been trying to evolve. This is despite the fact that both the countries no longer share a common security perception. The agreement envisages arrangements for supply of spare parts for defense equipment bought by New Delhi from the erstwhile Soviet Union. It also envisages improvement in the functioning of enterprises in Russia, which manufacture defense spare parts, setting up of joint ventures to produce these parts in sufficient numbers in Russia and India, and also transfer of technology so that factories in India can manufacture these spares.

President Yeltsin has made it clear to Mr. Narasimha Rao that when two countries have signed an agreement neither could rescind it because of any third party pressure. This has set at rest speculation that Russia might succumb to U.S. pressure and back out of its commitment to supply cryogenic engines to India by 1995 and transfer of technology by 1997. His explicit ruling out of any military and technical aid to Islamabad demonstrates the priority Moscow attaches to New Delhi.

It is pertinent to note that the settlement of credit issue has eased the signing of an agreement on defense credit. About 70 percent of Indian Armed Forces equipment is of Russian origin. It dates back to 1960 when the first Indo-Soviet arms aid agreement was signed and India purchased eight AN-12, 24 IL-14 transport planes, and 10 MI-4 helicopters from the former USSR. Also, what cannot be ignored is that if India is interested in acquiring Russian military equipment, the Russian side is similarly keen to sell them. Russia, in fact, has to sell military equipment if it wants to keep its vast military industrial complex functioning and earn some much needed money.

Keeping in view the problems created by the unipolar world, both the countries have realized that they need each other's support in the military-political sphere. One of the reasons of President Yeltsin's team being keen to discuss cooperation in the field of defense is the inability of the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to supply spares for the equipment, including aircraft and tanks, bought by New Delhi from the erstwhile USSR. The Russian side has indicated that apart from looking into the sources of such supplies for industry, Moscow is also dipping into the stocks of its own Armed Forces for supply to India. This will apply specially to such spares which are not being produced in Russia any longer. The Russian defense experts are now having discussions with their Indian counterparts and lists of spares and defense equipment needed by India are being prepared. They are also discussing how to procure both spares and equipment and where to produce them so that India's defense capability is not affected in any way. The Russian Government's proposal for coproduction of the spare parts for the MIG-21 aircraft and jointly market them to various countries where more than 6,800 such fighters are now flying and India's decision to purchase 20 more MIG-29 fighters at the estimated cost of $500 million from Moscow has given a new impetus to mutually beneficial India-Russian cooperation. The Russian proposal is, in fact, aimed at making India a center for assembling, servicing, and providing even spares for Russian-made equipment. Besides, there is only one year's spare parts supply left with the Indian Air Force which has more than 400 MIG-21 BIS aircraft. The Russian side has also given a plan for updating the MIG-21 BIS aircraft and to increase its life by another 10 to 15 years. The update plan includes modification of the wings of MIG-21, new flaps, modern (?head up) display, a new fire control radar, western avionics, and updated engine. The present agreement will be advantageous to India's Armed Forces which desperately needs spares and could be one of the largest markets for Russian defense enterprises, many of whom have already turned sick and production has rapidly fallen. It is worth recalling that Defense Minister Sharad Pawar's Moscow visit in September last has helped significantly to open new grounds for defense cooperation between the two countries.

The Russian president's unequivocal support for India's position that Kashmir is its integral part and his promise to back it in the UN Security Council and other international forums, as well as his emphasis that Russia will do its utmost to uphold India's sovereignty and integrity, must be seen in the background of his forthright statement that it is with this objective that his country will help India in its defense program. Besides, his pronouncement that India, Russia, and China have a great role to play in international affairs is very meaningful and significant.

Agreements Assessed

BK3101142993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 31 Jan 93

[A.C. Pandya commentary]

[Text] Russian President Mr. Boris Yeltsin's visit to India marks a new milestone in the relations between the two countries. Qualitatively, the new relationship draws the best and most vibrant values from the older relationship. In this fast changing political-economic world, India and Russia—with their size, resources, and dedication to peace and cooperation—stand as bulwarks against forces that debilitate and serve as catalysts for positive change. India-Russia friendship has a task before itself. It has a vital role to play on international plane with purposeful decisionmaking to fight the scourge of poverty, environmental degradation, weapons of mass destruction, which are holding mankind to ransom, cross-border terrorism, and inequality.

During the talks, broad consensus on many issues was arrived at between the visiting president and Indian Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Boris Yeltsin unequivocally supported India on Kashmir. Russia's firm policy, as he put it, is that India must keep its integrity and be united and undivided. Mr. Yeltsin assured that India occupies a special place in Russian foreign policy priority.

The new India-Russia treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries is a [word indistinct] with today's realities in the world and in the mutual interest. It is not directed against any third country. The emphasis is on bilateral relations. It is aimed at protecting sovereignty, integrity, and unity of India. These views of the Russian president underscored the tenor of all agreements and its support to India's efforts to normalize and improve relations with Pakistan and China. In the same trend, Mr. Boris Yeltsin deprecated violence and terrorism, besides inter-communities and religion-based conflicts.

Apart from the friendship treaty, the two countries signed agreements on defense, scientific, technical information and cultural cooperation and the modalities of consultations. Mr. Yeltsin also assured that Russia would unconditionally comply with the contract for the supply to India of a cryogenic rocket booster engine. The Russian leader also confirmed that his country is bidding for sale of an advanced jet fighter to India.

India-Russia relations took a bold step forward when the rupee-ruble agreement was signed. It marked a breakthrough in settling India's ruble debt to the former Soviet Union. The principal debt outstanding as on 31 March 1992 was 9,871 million rubles, which at the last announced protocol exchange rate amounted to 313,770 million rupees. Under the new agreement, the principal debt is being converted from ruble to rupee using the exchange rate on 1 January 1990 as determined by the protocol. The amount of the principal debt as of 1 April 1992 would be converted to rupees, using the exchange rate on that day as determined by the 1978 protocol. The difference in the two amounts will be fixed in rupees and will be rescheduled and repaid in annual installments over a period of 45 years. This reschedule portion will carry no interest. It will also have (?normal) protection against any fluctuation in the value of the rupee for a period of five years. Thereafter, it will be indexed to the SDR [World Bank's special drawing rights] if the average annual depreciation of the rupee exceeds 3 percent over this five-year period. Similarly, review will be conducted at the end of every five years. The non-rescheduled portion of the debt is the amount in rupees corresponding to the conversion of the ruble debt at the exchange rate of 1 January 1990.

Basically, what the agreement does is that it divides the debt into two parts. The first part is equal to the debt calculated on the exchange rate in 1990, which is about 63 percent of the total debt. This will be paid in the normal way as was being done earlier. The remainder of the debt, which is 37 percent, will be rescheduled and paid in 45 equal yearly installments. This is a very fair agreement reducing the burden of the debt from India's shoulders. Apparently, a net advantage of about 32 percent is expected to accrue to India. The satisfactory resolution of the rupee-ruble issue eliminates the barriers which had inhibited bilateral trade between India and Russia. Mr. Boris Yeltsin hoped that this agreement will boost trade between the two countries and this is a welcome feature.

Mr. Yeltsin invited Indian industrialists in India-Russia trade in order to achieve a target of U.S. $2.5 billion by 1994. [sentence as heard] Just as the stage has been set for a strong resumption of trade and other economic cooperation, so also is cooperation in space technology; all speculations have been set at rest and neither country will yield to a third country's interference. The 10 and odd agreements have underlined the determined positive friendship that has been reiterated between India and Russia.

Minister—U.S. Sanctions Not To Affect Space Program

BK0102125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The minister of state for science and technology, Mr. R. Kumaramangalam, says permanent sanctions against Indian Space Research Organization, ISRO, threatened by the U.S. for acquisition of cryogenic rocket engine and cryogenic technology from Russia will not affect India's space research program. Talking to newsmen in Madras today, he said India has developed critical components for a satellite launch vehicle.

Referring to the reported U.S. perception that the missile control technology would be made available to India through cryogenic booster rocket engine technology from Russia, the minister said it is far from the truth. He also dismissed the possibility of linking cryogenic engine technology with missiles.

Clinton Seen Continuing Bush Policy of Improving Ties

BK3101143393 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Clinton Promises Change"]

[Text] As the youngest American President since John F. Kennedy, the 46-year-old president, Bill Clinton, above everything else represents a generational change in the US political leadership. It was therefore only befitting that he inaugurated his presidency asking his fellow-Americans to embrace "change" as their friend. In fact it is not only in his youth and the fact that he has brought an end to the 12-year-long Republican tenancy of the White House that Mr. Clinton represents change. But, more importantly, as a post-cold war president reflecting the concerns of today's America, the differences in his agenda are likely to distinguish Mr. Clinton's presidency from that of the generation of post-second world war presidents, his predecessors in office. Thus anti-communism has now been replaced by racism, ethnicity, environment degradation, poverty, and economic uncertainties as the new president's concerns. In other words, it is the domestic agenda taking precedence over foreign policy matters. That would seem to be the most momentous reversal of direction that Mr. Clinton has heralded for the American nation. The call for a "bold season of American renewal" by the 42nd president of the United States in his inaugural speech was in keeping with this theme of change. But the element of continuity in US policy abroad has not been understated by Mr. Clinton. He reminded his fellow citizens that though "each generation of Americans must define what it is to be an American," their pursuit of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" was indeed "timeless." Outside of "Fortress America," the situation is different. Though personalities and styles may differ, American interests remain the same, altering only in response to differing US perceptions of priority of the interests overseas. And Mr. Clinton pledged himself to defeat those who might challenge the USA's global supremacy. Deeply aware of the tough tasks ahead, Mr. Clinton—in a line reminiscent of John F. Kennedy's 1961 inaugural statement "Ask not what America can do for you, but what you can do for America"—urged Americans "to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing" and brace themselves up for sacrifices. Indeed Mr. Clinton seemed to have struck the high chord in calling upon all Americans to come together to realise the new American dream. Setting a personal example, he saluted the outgoing President for his services spread over half-a-century to America—a gesture that must have gone down well with the Republicans. As far as India is concerned, Mr. George Bush's policy of developing ties with India is likely to continue. Even though Mr. Clinton is an unknown commodity here, he enjoys much goodwill in India. There are no reasons to believe that he has acquired as inheritance the burden of mistakes the preceding US administrations made towards this country. The absence of any bilateral conflict between India and the US should preclude any major upset in Indo-US relations. Indo-US differences grew in the past when America, departing from its libertarian and anti-imperialist early aims, backed the neo-imperialist policy of intrusion in South Asia from where Britain, the former imperial power had withdrawn. Let us hope that the new US president will discard that policy, together with much of the past he has promised to jettison.

Rao Says Recent Events 'Aberration,' Vows Economic Focus

BK3001161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister has called for reorienting the country's focus to economic development. Mr. Narasimha Rao has asked the government officers to respond effectively to the changing environment and adequately meet the needs of the common people. Addressing nearly 400 senior officers in New Delhi this morning, he cautioned them against attempts in some sections to create mental barriers to divide people on the lines of caste and creed. The prime minister said the administration should not discriminate against anyone on any pretext and render its service in the truly secular tradition of the country.

Mr. Narasimha Rao observed that unity and secularism are synonymous in the Indian context and said the only way we can exist is by coexistence. Allaying doubts about the stability of the country, the prime minister said the developments of the past two months are only an aberration. Mr. Narasimha Rao was confident that the country will emerge after its present difficulties. He said the best guarantee for building a strong and vibrant nation is economic development. Administration being an agent of change must pay undivided attention to this task, he said. [sentence as heard] Observing that the present difficult times call for hard decisions, the prime minister said the nation must be prepared to meet the challenges and also sacrifices. He remarked that there may not be any reward or accolade for such acts.

Our correspondent says that this is for the first time the prime minister met such large group of officers of the union government. The purpose is said to be establishment of an effective communication for administrative system and to convey the message that the economic development should not be brought to center stage. The prime minister in his 40-minute long address underlined the need for feedback from the people to the administrators and also to the political leadership.

Disturbed Areas Act To Remain in Force in Punjab

BK3001034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] In Punjab, the Disturbed Areas Act will remain in force for another six months up to June next. A notification to this effect was issued in Chandigarh. An official spokesman said during this period the security forces will retain the power to search any place or make arrest without a warrant. The spokesman said although the law and order situation has much improved, the extended period will be used to wipe out militancy completely.

Congress-I Denies Any Clandestine Pact With BJP

BK0102035893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Several Congress-I leaders have reaffirmed the party's resolve to fight communal forces and said that it will never have any overt or covert understanding with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Addressing a rally at Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, they refuted the allegation that the Congress-I had a clandestine pact with the BJP. The welfare minister, Mr. Sitaram Kesari, addressing the rally, said on the other hand, it was the Janata Dal which had colluded with the BJP to oppose Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma's candidature for the presidency. The Congress-I leaders said the BJP and other fundamentalist elements are pursuing a dangerous game plan by mixing religion with politics to collect votes. They asked the people to meet the challenge unitedly as such a plan would harm national unity and the country's secular fabric. Others who addressed the rally included Mr. Mahavir Prasad, Mr. Salman Khurshid, Mr. Balram Singh Yadav, Mr. Jitendra Prasad, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, and Mr. Rajesh Khanna.

Iran

President on Diplomatic Relations With U.S.

LD3101112693 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 31, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today said that Iran would not make a decision on opening negotiations with the United States for resumption of diplomatic ties, severed since 1979, unless "we see some good-will gestures from the Americans." Washington, he said, can prepare the ground for such negotiations by releasing, for instance, billions of dollars of Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks since the culmination of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The president made the remarks at a news conference attended by many foreign and domestic journalists at the presidential office here. A number of western journalists asked the president about the likelihood of resumption of ties in the wake of the coming to power of Democrat Bill Clinton and the reported visit to the U.S. of a National Iranian Oil Company delegation to discuss some projects. They also asked if a Tehran-Washington rapprochement could put an end to the Iranian people's anti-American sentiments.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in response to these questions, that the Iranian people's anti-American feeling stemmed from America's long-standing hostilities towards their country, their Islamic revolution and other Islamic states.

"As soon as our people realise that the Americans have ceased their hostile stance towards Islam and the revolution, they might revise their (anti-U.S.) slogans. But we don't see such a likelihood at the time being as we are witnessing continued U.S. animosity." He said trade between Iran and the U.S. had not ceased and that this did not change anything (in diplomatic relations). He also said that the reason Iran was reluctant to hold talks with the U.S. was because the Americans might take political advantage of the issue. "They should first demonstrate some good-will so that we can decide (on opening of talks)," he said.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also questioned Washington's "unjust policies" against the Palestinians and in favor of the Zionist regime. He cited America's double-standards as another weak point in its foreign policy and asked why Washington was indifferent towards the massacre of innocent civilians in Bosnia and Hercegovina while it had taken prompt action to check the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait or made many other interventions here and there throughout the world. "If the numerous issues of this nature are solved, the distance (for re-establishment of ties between Iran and the U.S.) would be capped," he noted.

Turning to the situation in Iraq, he agreed with a foreign journalist that Saddam Husayn was a factor of instability in the region. He said the nature of the Iraqi Ba'th Party had been well exposed after its 1980 invasion of Iran, its 1990 aggression against Kuwait and for mistreating the Iraqi people.

"Nevertheless, we do not think the solution is that a power like the U.S. come to the region and take control of the fate of the Iraqi people." He said the reason that Iran did not cooperate with "the trend being under U.S. control" was "because we suspect the intentions of the U.S. and the West." He voiced the concern that this "factor of instability now being in the hands of Iraq" would fall into the hands of the big powers which would be more dangerous.

Elsewhere, Hashemi-President Rafsanjani came out in favor of cooperation with Egypt as a "great Islamic state with cultural backgrounds." But he said the Camp David treaty which had inflicted a great blow on the anti-Israeli front, had caused the rupture of Tehran-Cairo diplomatic ties. He expressed hope that the Egyptian government would adopt "a better stance" against Israel (and in favor of the Palestinians) in which case, he said, Iran would welcome resumption of diplomatic ties with that country.

On the Middle East "peace" talks, he said Iran would never participate in these talks because "we look at Israel as a usurper and are confident that it would not give any concessions to the Palestinians."

On relations with Saudi Arabia, he expressed the hope that mutual cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh would further expand. And in reply to a question regarding "violation of rights of the Shiites" by the Saudi Government, the president said the discriminations, if any, should stop and the people of a country should be treated equally.

On the dispute with the United Arab Emirates regarding the three islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs, he said Iran was for close cooperation with the Persian Gulf states in the interest of regional and international peace. He added that there were some provocations in the region to sow discord between Iran and the Persian Gulf Arab states on false pretexts such as the island issue.

He said the solution to the Iran-UAE dispute was bilateral negotiations and urged the neighboring countries to deal with the regional issues wisely.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Iran was never after making enemies. "We are trying to settle the problems we have with some countries through peaceful means...but we will never compromise on our principles."

On the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, he said Iran was "deeply concerned" over the events in the war-torn republic and that no serious measure seemed to be underway to end the crimes of the Serbs. He said Iran alone could not do much but has done all within its power to help the Bosnians and will continue the same. He urged the United Nations to deal with the issue very seriously. "The big powers and the European countries should know that the continued crimes of the Serbs in Bosnia would be a cause of their further disgrace."

The president denied that Iran had done anything in violation of the UN resolutions on Bosnia but said the unjust arms embargo against that republic should be lifted to enable the Bosnian Muslims defend themselves.

On the death sentence on Salman Rushdie, he said it was an Islamic verdict issued by a religious authority (the late Imam Khomeyni) and could not be revoked unless by that authority. He said the West was exerting pressure without paying attention to the root of the jurisprudent question.

In response to another question, the president denied Iran's access to nuclear weapons, saying "we believe that nuclear and chemical arms are harmful to humanity and, therefore, we have never been, and will not be, after aquiring such weapons." He reiterated that the Islamic Republic was for peaceful use of nuclear power and would use it in the manner ratified by international bodies concerned.

"The enemies of Islam are seeking political gains through their hue and cry over Iran's alleged nuclear equipment," the president said.

Asked why Iran is gradually turning into a military power in the region and why it needs to strengthen its military power, Hashemi-Rafsanjani responded: "We do not have any specific plan to beef up our military system out of proportion. Rather, according to international standards we have spent 1.5 percent of gross national product on defence. This is while a figure on a single arms deal including sale of the British-made Tornado jet fighters to Saudi Arabia is equivalent to the total arms spendings of the Islamic Republic over the past few years."

On concern of the Persian Gulf littoral states on Iran's military built-up, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani maintained that in line with the West's mischievous propaganda campaign, they (Arab states) intended to divert public opinion from Israel's mischiefs to Iran by magnifying Iran's military power.

As it was shown during the war, the Islamic Republic never compromises on defending its interests and values, he said, adding that the West has led Iran's neighboring states into believing that Tehran was planning to interfere in their internal affairs.

However, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani voiced Iran's opposition to the military accords concluded between the Persian Gulf littoral states and the U.S., reasoning that the presence of western forces in the Persian Gulf would jeopardize peace and stability of the region.

Questioned on what prompted Iran to buy submarines under the present conditions, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied that the idea of purchasing submarines dated back to pre-revolution era. "So we naturally pursued the same policy after the triumph of the Islamic revoluton in order to overcome the weakness of our naval power." As military experts familiar with specifications of such submarines know, such submarines were unable to tip the balance of power in the region.

Asked about the price of oil favored by Iran, the president maintained that the OPEC price of 21 dollars per barrel should be pursued. "We think that by following this, OPEC can attain its goals."

On the trial of a German national arrested in Iran, the president said that the trial of the accused should go through another judicial procedure and that the supreme court should issue the final ruling. "This is absolutely a judicial matter and Iran is determined to ensure that the trial is carried out fairly and in consistent with laws," he said. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear "the accused in Iran, either foreigners or Iranians, are treated equally by our judiciary which by no means allows its rulings to be influenced by political or security issues."

On Iran's relations with Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "If Saddam (Husayn) remains in power as Iraq's legal head of state and if he wants to cooperate with Iran, there will be no problem." "But Iraq is yet to restore our rights, to release some of our prisoners of war and to pay war reparations. These should be settled. All in all, if a popular government comes to power in Iraq, we will cooperate with it."

In reply to a question as to the fate of the Iraqi planes brought to Iran during the Persian Gulf war, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "We will make a decision over the Iraqi planes whenever the outline of Iran-Iraq relations is made clear."

Questioned whether Iran was still after exporting its revolution through shipment of arms, Hashemi-Rafsanjani responded that there did not exist anything called export of the revolution from the physical point of view, for instance by dispatching armed troops or arms.

"In fact, export of the revolution means introducing the lofty values of the revolution and our own experiences to the world. Anybody interested can make use of such experiences and values to the benefit of his people and country." President Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated that Iran in no way intends to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

Asked whether the assassination last week of a Turkish journalist would have adverse effects on Tehran-Ankara ties, he said Irano-Turkish relations were based on expanding cooperation but that there were some elements within Turkey who are opposed to the promotion of ties between the two countries. Neither of the Iranian and Turkish governments must be influenced by such hostile propaganda launched by those elements, Hashemi-Rafsanjani told reporters.

On Iran-Qatar relations, the president expressed satisfaction with mutual ties and said the two countries enjoyed necessary understanding and cooperation in various areas. "God willing, these ties will set a good example for other Persian Gulf countries."

On developments in Tajikistan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed deep regret over the events in the newly-independent Central Asian country. He, however, said that interfering in Tajikistan's internal affairs was not a policy pursued by the Islamic Republic.

Questioned about Iran's attitude towards Kyrgyzstan's recognition of the Zionist regime, the president said the Islamic Republic was opposed to recognition of the Qods occupying regime by any country.

On recent economic sanctions imposed on Iran by Japan and certain western countries such as Germany, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "basically we are opposed to such a decision but are not worried about it. We do not intend to get access to chemical or nuclear weapons." "However, we are not concerned about the imposition of such sanctions... We have been facing such sanctions since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution but have managed to overcome our problems," he pointed out.

In reply to a question by a German reporter about allegations that prisoners in Iran were in a poor condition, the president replied "Influenced by west's anti-Iran propaganda, you, too, have failed to realize the fact there is a good relationship between prisoners and prison wardens in Iran."

"In Iranian prisons, inmates are given some days off (to visit their homes) and are allowed to visit their family members. You fail to see such a relationship and it is not tangible for you." More on the same subject, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "When the Iraqi regime was attacking the Iranian people with missiles and other weapons it had received from you, many westerners and Americans supported it both politically ad militarily. You do not regard these acts as being against human rights."

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made it clear that there are no political prisoners in Iran and that those referred to by western countries as political prisoners are those engaged in terrorism or drug trafficking. "If you were a bit fair, you would certainly withdraw your claims. You just have to investigate to find out what sufferings your sale of arms to other countries bring to their people. It is only then that you will come to know who is violating human rights," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

Asked which western country is the most hostile to the Islamic Republic, the Iranian president said the U.S. topped the countries which are hostile to the Islamic Republic. But, he added, there are other countries making lots of untrue remarks.

In response to a question on whether he would run for a second term in office in the upcoming presidential elections, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "since the beginning, I have devoted my life to the Islamic revolution."

"The question of presidency is not a personal matter but is rather a task with ideological aspects. If necessary, I will be at the service of the Iranian people and run in the elections," he said.

Asked to what extent the Islamic revolution has been successful over the past 14 years, he said, "despite the imposed war and obstacles put on the way of the revolution by the west, we have been highly successful."

"A proof of such a success is the massive presence of people on various scenes of the revolution and their love for the system and officials."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed the foreign reporters present at the press conference to personally visit national projects being implemented throughout the country and witness the success of the Islamic revolution, during their stay in Iran.

On women's role in the Iranian society, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed Iran insists that women should assume social resposibilities and that today women in Iran are actively present in such places as universities, educational centers, factories and other organizations.

On the activities of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), he said with some of regional countries joining the organization it has taken a new shape, entered a new era and found additional resources. Establishment of joint banks, insurance companies and preferential tariffs as well as improvement of communication routes between member states are on the agenda of the economic institution, he said.

In conclusion, the president said that his government is determined to modify wages in a way they can keep pace with inflation rate.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on U.S., Mideast, Arms

LD3101140493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1110 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Unidentified correspondent's report on news conference by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by in Tehran on 31 January]

[Text] [Correspondent] Over 180 domestic and foreign correspondents discussed important international current events and the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on various international issues with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a two and a half hour-long news conference.

Speaking on the eve of the start of the 15th year since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the president addressed correspondents representing prestigious media organizations from different parts of the world. He spoke of the inner strength of the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and announced the full adherence of Iranian officials and people to the regime's fundamental principles. He declared: It is not our policy to try to make enemies. We try, instead, to remove the problems, obstacles, and factors preventing friendship with various countries so that we can move toward the improvement of relations with the countries of the world.

The president said that Iran's leader, government, and people are not prepared to compromise over their revolutionary and principled positions. He added: We present and explain our revolution to all the different parts of the world; this does not imply interference or a physical presence. It is rather the case that Islamic thought, which is based on freedom and independence, is in contradiction with the West's colonialist and immoral culture. That is why we see that Westerners regard Islam as a serious movement standing before them and they do not wish to see this movement succeed.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We believe that the West must respect the Islamic world's public opinion and leave them alone so that they can choose their destiny on the basis of their own beliefs.

The president referred to the extent of the freedom of belief and expression in Iran and to the fact that anyone with views has access to public platforms, including the media. He said: We ban ideas that are corrupt, harmful to the country's security, or conspiratorial. This is something that is also done in the West.

In response to questions from European and American media correspondents on Iran's insistence on continuing to oppose America and the severance of diplomatic ties with that country, the president said: The break in our relations with America results from the arrogant policies of the leaders of that country. If they reform their policies and aggressive nature, we do not see any reasons to continue the severance of ties. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not reconsider its current stance while America continues to freeze our assets, support Israel, and have an aggressive attitude toward Muslim peoples and the world of Islam.

Another Western reporter asked: Iran is becoming a very powerful country of the region. Does Iran feel any threat? In response, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] If you say Iran is a regional power with regard to internal strength, we accept this—this was proven during our eight-year war. We defend ourselves by relying on the people and with our faith. If however, you mean that we have extraordinary plans to arm ourselves, this in fact is seriously denied. You can see our budget this year. Out of a 54 trillion [rial] budget, only $850 million have been allocated to our armed forces. Official statistics—which have been endorsed by world centers—say: Iran devotes 1.5 percent of its GNP to defense. At the same time, our neighboring countries ...[pauses] ... you know the quantity of weapons they purchase. The latest instance, which was announced a couple of days ago, was the sale of British Tornado fighters to [Saudi] Arabia. This is equivalent to our total defense expenditure for two or three years. Therefore, such propaganda pursues political and aggressive objectives. [end recording]

[Correspondent] In response to a question from a German correspondent on Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We regard nuclear weapons and mass killings as fundamentally inhumane. We have never sought them [nuclear weapons] and will never do so. He continued: This is a rumor with political aspects. Western media have created the grounds for this negative propaganda. We seek nuclear power for peaceful purposes as approved by international circles.

In reply to a question by an Arabic-speaking correspondent about the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance toward Iraq as the cause of instability in the region, the president said: We also accept that the Iraqi Ba'th Party is the cause of aggression and instability in the region; but we do not think the solution is that a power like America controls the destiny of the Muslim people of Iraq and the region. But if we do not actively cooperate in the confrontation with Iraq this is because we are suspicious about the intentions of America and the West and what they are doing in the region.

On future Iran-Iraq relations, the president said: After the war we decided to solve our problems with Iraq and not to continue contaminating our neighborly relations with such disputes. Of course it then became clear that the Iraqis' willingness to solve their problems [with Iran] were chiefly because they wanted to occupy Kuwait. He added: Currently some of our POWs are still in Iraq and our nation has not received compensation from the Iraqi Government. But in any case, if Iraq wishes to cooperate with us, the same as any other neighboring country, then we will also cooperate. Of course those [neighborly] cooperations can take place more easily if a popular government comes to power in Iraq.

On the propaganda of the Western governments about Iran's military threat to the region, the president said: World propaganda contains some elements of mischief aimed at diverting the public opinion of the regional Islamic countries from the problem of Israel and depicting Iran as a threat. Even though our nation proved during the war and its self-defense that it is very serious in safeguarding its defense and interests and that it will not budge against any power—but that does not mean interference in other [countries'] affairs or aggression against the neighboring countries. No country should be concerned about Iran's power.

In reply to a question by an Arab correspondent on the future of Iran-Egypt relations, the president said: It is right that we should cooperate and have relations with Egypt which is a great Islamic country with an ancient culture. But the main reason that we cut off our relations was the Egyptian Government's Camp David initiative which dealt a severe blow to the resistance-front against Israel and created discord, and that obstacle has not been removed yet. We cannot ignore the process which is still being spearheaded by Egypt. It is better for the Egyptians to adopt a more appropriate stance toward Israel. If that happens we will welcome the establishment of ties with Egypt.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in further cooperation with the Persian Gulf regional states, he stressed: We think that the way to resolve our problems with those states is to hold bilateral talks and we are ready to convene a second round of talks with the UAE [United Arab Emirates] on existing issues. And we hope that our brethren in the Persian Gulf states note that tension is not in the interest of stability in the region.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern over the atrocities that area being carried out by Serbs in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered the West and Europe's inability to confront this human tragedy to be a cause of disgrace for great powers and Europe. He said: Sanctions against Bosnia- Hercegovina by the United Nations are unfair and must be lifted. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not stint any effort and assistance for the tyrannized Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina and will never do so.

During the interview, the BBC radio correspondent asked the president: You are always asking the United States and the West to reform themselves while you fail to speak about your country's change of behavior and policy. Do you not intend to bring about any change in your position?

In reply, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We do not say that America and the West should bring about change in issues which do not concern us, but they should change their actions and stance regarding Iran. On the other hand Iran has never committed any wrong against others and has not done anything which is against fundamental and international principles. If you have any instances you are welcome to raise them.

Replying to a question by a Russian correspondent regarding Iran's position on events in Tajikistan, the president said: We very much regret what goes on in Tajikistan because by fighting, the popular forces, instead of reconstructing their country, are acting against the people's interests. But we do not interfere in this. We merely hold views on it.

In reply to a question by a European correspondent on Iran's concern over satellite coverage of the region by the West, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are not concerned because we are confident that our people are steadfast in adhering to their Islamic principles with complete assurance. But it is incumbent on us to safeguard the young generation against the deceptive moral deviation of the West through necessary warnings so that we do not fall pray to problems that at the moment beset Western communities.

The president reviewed the government's positive and successful performance in the implementation of the first state five year economic, social, and cultural development plan and noted: Being realistic and using our experiences of the first plan and the new facilities which we have at our disposal we will better organize and implement the second plan.

Stressing that people should not be concerned about the introduction of the projects to introduce a single foreign currency exchange rate and the adjustment of the economy [ta'dil-e eqtesadi], he said: The adjustment will take place gradually and the government intends to implement its pre-planned policies to keep the subsidies and provide the basic commodities which people need as before and step by step adjust the expenditure and public revenue sectors.

In reply to another question the president said: The level of foreign investment depends on the decision of the Guardian Council. On adhering to foreign commitments he said: Our policy, as it can be seen from our budget for the next year, is to reduce such commitments and we have, in the current year, reduced our commitments by four billion dollars and according to the budget approved by the Majles, we should reduce our commitments by 15 percent by the end of the year 1372 [20 March 1994].

On women's rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: We in fact insist on the policy to restore the the dignity of our society's women, and the extensive presence of women in education and training and higher educational centers prove just that same viewpoint. We want to remove any kind of injustice and discrimination against the people of our society.

In response to a question about torture and execution of political prisoners in Iranian prisons, he invited correspondents to visit the country's prisons and closely observe the civilized behavior of the officers with prisoners. He said: Now our prisoners are treated in such a way that you, with all your claims, do not treat your prisoners. The issue of torture that you mention belongs to the pre-revolution era when you maintained friendly relations with the Iranian Government. But the issue here is the campaign against the smuggling of narcotics and that is where executions come in. On the issue of human rights, I believe that it is the West that should be answerable to Iran and if you were fair you would take back what you said.

Further on News Conference

LD3101153793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A correspondent asked [President Hashemi-Rafsanjani] about the Islamic Republic of Iran's position regarding Krgyzstan's recognition of the Zionist regime. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Israel is an illegitimate government in the region. It should be shunned by all countries so that the rights of the suffering people of Palestine can be realized. We expect Third World and Islamic countries to formulate their policy with justice. Therefore, we oppose the recognition of the Zionist regime by any of these countries. [passage omitted]

In response to a question by a correspondent of a domestic newspaper who sought the president's view on the recent position of the honorable leader of the Islamic Republic [Khamene'i] regarding irresponsible expressions of view with regard to world arrogance, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The government's policy has always been in line with the leadership's policy. Basically, the leader of the revolution formulates such policies. As he has said, this is the policy of the government, the president, and the honorable leader. We have always been antagonistic toward arrogant policies and we still are. Moreover, we believe this policy is correct. [passage omitted]

The correspondent of the American newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST, like the other two Western reporters, asked a question on the relations between Iran and the United States. He asked: Why is Iran unwilling to negotiate with the United States? Why has it not changed its policy? At the same time, U.S. officials are willing to talk freely without any preconditions. Iran, however, has set conditions for negotiations; it is not prepared to negotiate.

In response, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: There must be prior goodwill in holding any negotiations. The United States has offered no explanations as to why it has kept our assets frozen for 15 years. They have not shown any sign of goodwill. Under these circumstances, negotiations might be misused by the United States. Considering the advanced propaganda resources at its disposal, the United states might get political gains out of negotiations. On the whole, the United States must first prove its goodwill and then we can decide. [passage omitted]

President's Address Marks Khomeyni's Return From Exile

NC0102074193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0607 GMT 1 Feb 93

["Special message" by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the commencement of the Ten Days of Dawn celebrations marking the anniversary of the late Ayatollah Khomeyni's return to Iran from exile in France on 1 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

May these lasting and destiny-making moments be auspicious for our dear nation. Fourteen years have passed and we have seen how these events—that is, the Imam's arrival on Iranian soil after many years in exile—have had on our lives.

In general, the trend has changed from negative to positive and we have moved from destruction toward prosperity. Until that day, we had been a dependent country. The Pahlavi regime took orders from foreigners regarding our policies. Today, our people effectively decide their own destiny. They do so by making effective decisions and being masters of their own fate. In this regard, we are role models for the world.

Regarding justice, in those days there were a few thousand families who despotically ruled our society. Today, however, the offspring of the working class have taken over the administration of society.

Today, regarding moral and cultural aspects, which were going downhill into the palates of decadent Western culture, we see that we are protected by the shield of the valuable gnosis of the Koran of Islam. The institution of the family is more stable and our youth are treading the path of happiness.

A large part of our country in those days was wallowing in illiteracy, backwardness, and discrimination—at the expense of the development of certain parts of the country—and the opulence-loving stratum wanted it that way. Today all the resources that we have are distributed equitably to all regarding the country's development and the elimination of discrimination and deprivation.

We still have a long way to go before we attain our lofty objectives.

Universities were controlled by a limited number of the offspring of the affluent class. Today they are managed by the residents of villages and deprived areas. Large numbers of the children of the masses attend the universities.

The country's development and reconstruction, following the difficult period of defense, are effectively working toward repairing the infrastructure—reforming of the actual structure of the economy. This is happening despite the fact that the inimical policies of the powers of world arrogance, embargoes, and the imposed war inflicted heavy blows in this regard. Fortunately, however, with the efforts of our people, the backwardness imposed on us is being redressed.

Regarding combat, our people have been successful and have recorded epic-making sagas in our history which can serve as examples for other nations. They fought alone, with self-reliance, and defended their country and the revolution.

In this regard, it is appropriate in these sweet days of the Ten Days of Dawn for us to remember our valuable martyrs and other selfless individuals such as the disabled, POWs, and MIAs, and we also should pay tributes to their noble families.

The memory of our late Imam, from whom we have benefited greatly, always will be a source of inspiration for us. Obedience to the great leader of the revolution will guarantee the preservation of our revolution's values in our history.

I hope that the people and the government, the Majles and all our forces, will join hands to build up this dear country—of the imam of this era—in a manner that will gladden the heart of the Imam.

May the blessings of God be upon you.

Clinton Urged Against 'Blind' Support of Israel

NC2901134093 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Tehran Majles Deputy Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, former permanent representative to the United Nations]

[Text] On 20 January Bill Clinton took over the White House as the new U.S. President. The inauguration ceremonies to transfer power from the Republicans to the Democrats cost $20 million and television cameras showed the grandiose function to the world, enabling people to see new President Bill Clinton exulting among the squads of cheerleaders.

His remarks in the first moments of his tenure did not seem very calculated or deep. He promised U.S. leadership of the world while painting a bleak picture of the country's massive avalanche of social and economic problems, insolvency of small and large industries, unemployment, and so on.

Most surprising is that all his military violence was projected against those who threaten U.S. interests. It is difficult to fathom how a country in a state of economic bankruptcy, which threatens its enemies and rivals with recourse to military force, can profess to hold the leadership of the world in its hands!

Clinton, or more aptly, the Democrats, promised in their electioneering that if they won, they will first tackle domestic problems, in particular reducing military expenditure, solving unemployment, reactivating industry, revamping education and instruction, and manpower training.

There was also talk of recalling military forces stationed abroad and utilizing their capabilities and expertise to implement development projects such as a countrywide high-speed railroad network that would otherwise be delegated to the Japanese.

Unfortunately, the international economic and political trend does not seem linked with the electioneering slogans of U.S. political parties. U.S. military involvement has increased in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle Eastern, Arab, and African countries.

Western Europe remains apprehensive about Russia's military might and the dream of recalling the military forces will never materialize. It also seems farfetched to imagine that the daily mounting military expenditure incurred by an extensive U.S. presence in Europe, the Persian Gulf, the Arab countries, Somalia, and in the Indian Ocean, can be minimized. The purchase of billions of dollars of armaments and military technology by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Persian Gulf countries will more or less reactivate U.S. ordnance industries and absorb a large section of U.S. capital and manpower.

This will further undermine or limit any intentions or motivation to rebuild industry or replace ordnance products with nonmilitary products, especially with strong competitors such as Germany, Japan, South Korea, France, and in general, a united Europe, entering the international market and easing the United States out of the sphere of nonmilitary industrial activities.

International events since the U.S. presidential election have presented unsatisfactory and dark horizons to the

White House that Bill Clinton could never have imagined. If Clinton cannot create the fundamental changes he has promised in U.S. foreign policy, he will be unable to make any difference to the country's budget structure that prevailed in the Bush era.

What Clinton promised in his electioneering should guarantee a series of basic changes in the domestic and foreign policy programs of the United States. If it wishes to increase its investment in the bankrupt nonmilitary industries such as steel, petrochemicals, automobiles, agriculture, construction, electronics, and so on, it will be forced to cut down its investment in ordnance industries.

This strategic change in the country's industries will only be possible when the United States can cater to its foreign political objectives without an extensive military presence abroad. During the cold war era, the main threat against the interests of the West, spearheaded by the United States, was the spread of communism. Just as his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, predicted, that the dissolution of the Soviet Union would relegate the very concept of communism to the dustbin of history, and although Russia is still considered a major military power, there is no such threat as communism. Russia has now become a part of the West. Israeli analysts have always sought to project the Islamic revolution as the greatest threat following the decline of communism.

The Islamic revolution differs from communism. It is a cultural revolution, which, contrary to the Soviet Union, has no military objectives. Islam is also spreading in the West and is helping to ensure the wellbeing of the people of Western societies, protecting them from moral decadence, alcoholism, addiction, and AIDS by enjoining chastity, honesty, social security, healthy living, the fulfillment of commitments and upgrading of their morals and spirituality without threatening the political structure.

As is borne out by the holy verses: "There is no compulsion in religion" [Koranic verse in Arabic] in any country in the East and West. The Islamic revolution will never conduct any brainwashing. It has, on principle, enhanced the worth of other revealed religions in the individual, collective, and even political life of the West, while communism sought to uproot all divine religions. One of the concerns of the industrial West is to gain access to the valuable energy resources of the Islamic countries. This rivalry was more intense between the former Soviet Union and the West, but now, with the downfall of the Soviet Union, the danger of the loss of these sources and their falling into the hands of the communist faction does not exist. What is more important is that even if the Islamic countries have what is known in the West as fundamentalist governments, they will maintain their commercial and political relations with the West; there will never be the slightest interest in reviving international communism. These countries' oil will remain available to the West—the main customers of Islamic countries' oil—at fair prices.

If there is any competitiveness in the West on energy reserves, it is among the Western countries themselves, not between communism and capitalism. Japan and South Korea or a united Europe can be considered rivals to the United States in energy and industry, not international communism and capitalism. The United States does not need to maintain a military presence in the Middle East at such an exorbitant cost to gain access to the Middle East's energy resources. This is only possible if it refuses to be duped by false and deceptive Israeli propaganda.

When the greatest danger to the United States was the Soviet Union, Israel projected itself as the most important and loyal Western base in the region. It thus convinced the United States to continue its limitless financial and military support for Israel. But today the danger of communism has been eliminated and Israel has no pretext for milking the United States dry. So it projects Islam as the greatest substitute for communism against the United States so that it can continue to avail itself of the United States' extensive financial and military assistance.

If Clinton realized that the greatest danger to the United States comes from Israel, most of his problems would be solved. Clinton should know that most Islamic countries, such as Yemen, Iraq, Algeria, and even Egypt in the time of Gamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, leant toward communism because of the presence of Israel. Muslims were drawn to communism to combat the danger of Israel; the only danger the United States faces in the region is its blind and thoughtless support of Israel. Otherwise, there is no reason for Muslims to differentiate between the United States and European countries.

If Clinton relinquished his support of Israel, he would guarantee for himself the trustworthy friendship of the Muslims. Then, he would have no need of an expensive military presence to gain access to the region's energy resources. Then, the Islamic countries would naturally sell their oil willingly to the existing customers, the most important of whom are the industrial Western countries, even if the Islamic countries had what the West calls fundamentalist governments.

So the secret of Clinton's success would be not to sell the United States to Israel like his predecessors did and thus terminate the exorbitant expenditure that the devious and fallacious Zionists imposed on them for safeguarding their own interests in the Middle East. Instead, he can embark on improving education, training, health, and treatment programs and resuscitate the bankrupt industries of the United States.

By ending his blind support of Israel, Clinton can mend fences with the Islamic world and even change the atmosphere prevailing over U.S.-Iranian relations. He can win friends in the form of hundreds of millions of Muslims in the region—even among those who currently demonstrate in the streets of Cairo and Algiers against their respective regimes—instead of despotic Israel.

Clinton's main problem is Israel.

Will Clinton wish to choose the friendship of the Islamic world over Israel's futile and expensive support? The answer is not clear but it is the only ray of hope on the obscure horizons facing Clinton. And the role of Islamic countries' media, especially the writers and analysts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in schooling American public opinion and driving home the region's realities, should not be forgotten.

Oil Delegation Visits U.S.; No Plan for Agreement

LD3101125593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] An Iranian oil delegation is in the United States. Mr. Hoseyni, an adviser to the oil minister, who is heading the delegation, said the following in an interview with an IRNA correspondent in New York about the purpose of the Iranian oil delegation's trip to the United States:

After the resolution of the differences between the Amoco company and Iran in The Hague Tribunal, that company expressed an interest to present documents, technical research, and material relating to its claims against Iran. The Oil Ministry agreed to send a delegation to that company's headquarters in Houston, in the United States, to study the issues in question. He said that the Amoco oil company succeeded in obtaining, in The Hague Tribunal, $600 million in damages for equipment left in Iran and added: The Amoco company has carried out precise studies in connection with the oil storage tanks built by that company in Iran and the resulting technical information may be of use to us now.

The technical adviser to the Oil Minister added that Iran's Oil Ministry currently has no intention of signing an agreement with the American oil company and said: The Iranian delegation's trip to Houston created a framework in which discussions could also be held with the Amoco company about the construction of the Azerbaijan Republic's oil pipeline and its possible route through Iranian territory for the transportation of that republic's oil to international markets.

Rafsanjani, Bosnia's Izetbegovic Hold Phone Talks

LD3101165993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] It is to the advantage of the Muslim and Croatian nations to observe the cease-fire and strengthen tranquillity. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed this in a telephone conversation with Ali Izetbegovic, president of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He added: Both countries are subjected to the grudges and prejudices of a common enemy. They should avoid their differences and discords and instead deploy all their defensive resources against the Serbs.

Izetbegovic, for his part, expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance extended by the Government and people of Iran to the peoples of the region, who have been subjected to aggression. He voiced the hope that, with the two sides respecting the cease-fire agreement, peace and tranquillity will be strengthened between Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. President Izetbegovic briefed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani about developments in the region and the unproductive peace talks in Geneva.

President, Croatia's Tujdman Discuss Balkans

LD0102145193 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in a telephone conversation Monday [1 February] with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani exchanged views over the current developments in the Balkans.

President Rafsanjani expressed regret at flare-up of fighting between Croats and Muslim forces. Tudjman said that the fighting between the two groups has subsided in Central Bosnia and added, "we are ready to join the Muslims and prevent Bosnia from falling into the hands of Serbs."

He appealed to President Rafsanjani to help solve the problem between Muslims and Croats.

President Rafsanjani stressed the need for full cooperation between Muslims and Croats and added that the Islamic Republic of Iran would do its best to build understanding and cooperation between Muslims and Croats. Meanwhile President Rafsanjani had a telephone conversation with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic over the same subject yesterday.

Velayati Launches Central Asian Tour

LD2901145793 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left here for Ashgabat today on the first leg of his visit to three Central Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Before his departure he said in an interview that the visit was aimed at following up the outcome of the previous visits of the heads of the three republics to Tehran.

He said in view of the upcoming ministerial meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Quetta, Pakistan, he would exchange views on further cooperation among the ECO members, with the officials of the three republics as the new members of the 10-nation organization.

Iran, Pakistan and Turkey are founding members of the ECO, later joined by Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan as well as as the above-mentioned three.

Mutual relations, regional and international developments, and latest developments in the newly-independent republics, particularly after the Minsk meeting, are among other topics of discussions between the Iranian delegates and the officials of these republics, Velayati said.

Afghan Hostilities Seen Threatening Economy, Security

NC2801140793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Afghanistan and Our National Security"]

[Text] Heavy confrontations occurred between Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Afghanistan's central government led by Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Months after the collapse of communism and the formation of the Islamic government in Afghanistan, civil war still rages in this impoverished and backward country. And, unfortunately, it would seem that none of the militant groups in Afghanistan possesses the necessary political understanding for a correct appraisal of their country's position from an international perspective.

In the past months, the activities of about 10 political groups in Afghanistan have demonstrated that for their leaders the destiny of their country and nation is subsidiary to their desire for the acquisition of exclusive political power.

No logical pattern, deriving from ethnic or religious sympathies or from affinities between the moderate and radical groups, is discernible in the constant regroupings and formation of new alliances of the past months. All these shifting coalitions have been in the form of very calculated maneuvers, undertaken solely for the purpose of gaining more and more power.

The monopolistic power struggles among the Afghan political groups have caused great embarrassment for the people who desire the establishment of a proper Islamic government in Kabul, while they have provided great satisfaction for those governments and political groups who claimed that the Afghans would never be able to set up an Islamic government.

And the worst aspect of the situation would seem to be that the groups in Afghanistan are not predisposed to learning from the example of other nations or listening to advice. Otherwise, what better example could one offer than the recent events in Tajikistan?

But what position should we adopt in connection with the events in Afghanistan which are in direct relations with our national security?

It would be a great mistake if we were to lower our outlook from a general, comprehensive view, and get involved in the details of balance of power among the Mojahedin groups. It should always be kept in mind that our enemies would like very much to create a quagmire for the Islamic Republic in Afghanistan. Our only recommendation, to the groups which would like to listen to friendly advice, should be that they give top priority to the establishment of peace and stability.

The continuation of the hostilities for any reason and with any justification will have the following harmful consequences for us:

1. Failure of a neighboring nation in their attempt to set up an Islamic government. 2. The waste of our economic resources which may be offered in the form of any kind of assistance. 3. Increase in the number of Afghan refugees in our country which will have the effect of an adverse burden on our economy in the coming months, and will lead to the increase in unemployment and criminal offences.

Consumer Goods' Price Index Rises 20.5% in Urban Areas

LD2601144893 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Price index of consumer goods and services in urban areas in the Iranian month of Aban (October 23-November 21, 92) rose by 20.5 percent compared to the same period in 1991, according to a report released by the Central Bank of Iran Tuesday.

The report added that the said index was 511.6 in the month of Aban, down by 0.1 in comparison to the preceding month.

The wholesale price index in the country in the month of Aban reached 619.2, up by 2.1 compared to the preceding month and by 31.8 compared to the same period in 1991.

The average increase of wholesale price index in the country in the first eight months of the current Iranian year (to end March 20) was 30.4 percent higher than last year.

* West Opposed to Independent, Islamic Regimes

93AS0416A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 30 Dec 92 p 14

[Interview with Mohammad Rahim Afzali, Afghan vice president for international affairs, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] After 14 years of relentless struggle with the communist regime supported by the former Soviet

Union, which brought with it much loss of life and property, the Muslim nation of Afghanistan has finally been able to prevail over the foreigners who were feeding on this country, with divine help and assistance. Although in the beginning the Muslim government of the people of Afghanistan faced many problems, the future of this nation is hopeful and clear, and the Afghan resistance groups, who watered the seedling of the divine government in their nation for years by shedding their blood, are now going hand in hand to smooth the way for their nation's progress and advancement.

During the International Conference on Cultural Cooperation between Central Asian Nations, held recently in Tehran, KEYHAN-E HAVA'I held an interview with Mohammad Rahim Afzali, vice president for international affairs in the Afghanistani Government, the text of which follows:

[Correspondent] Welcome, and best wishes for success to the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. Along with an introduction of yourself and your duties, please give comments if you have them about one of the important issues afflicting the world of Islam—Salman Rushdie—and the position of the Western nations and America, as well as the reaction of the Islamic nations.

[Afzali] I thank KEYHAN-E HAVA'I for providing the opportunity for such an interview. I am the vice president for international relations in the Islamic Government of Afghanistan, and I have come to Iran at the invitation of UNESCO to take part in the first Central Asian Scientific Educational Congress. With regard to Salman Rushdie, His Holiness the Imam's (peace be upon him) historic fatwa remains in force as before. God willing, this propagandist for Satan will be punished for what he did, which was insulting the sacred symbols of Islam, and God willing the pressure of Western media propaganda, which is mostly political rather than humanitarian and is aimed at opposing the growth of Islamic activity in the world, will not divert the will of Muslims in the slightest.

[Correspondent] What is the view of Afghanistan's prominent clergy, both Shi'i and Sunni, concerning this fatwa?

[Afzali] It can be said that all the clergy, political parties, and Islamic organizations support the decisive position of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) in this regard.

[Correspondent] Comment on the domestic affairs of Afghanistan and the direct and indirect support of other nations for the existing groups and organizations in this country, and the consequences of this support.

[Afzali] The domestic situation in Afghanistan is quite hopeful. Peace and security has been established by the forces of the Ministry of Defense, and the people are going about their business. The schools and universities have gone into operation, and if things happen sometimes, the reason is that in 14 years of sacred jihad most individuals have been armed and it is no exaggeration to say that today in Afghanistan there are more weapons than people. Of course the same is true with regard to livestock, and mostly sheep. Despite this, in the last eight months the Government of Afghanistan has gained complete control over the situation and security is established in all 30 of this nation's provinces. Military action is seen at times only in Kabul, which is not that important. I hope that as soon as possible, with the formation of the Solution and Accord Council, the problems will be solved. The president of the Islamic Government of Afghanistan—Professor Borhan al-Din Rabani—has also announced that he is willing to turn over power to the aforementioned council so that this council can designate the next president, and this is also one of the reasons for the success of the Islamic government of this country. We are confident that this council has the ability to establish complete peace within the 45-day period set for it by Rabani.

[Correspondent] What is your view concerning the intervention of foreign countries in Afghanistan?

[Afzali] It is undeniable that intervention by countries causes disruption. Unfortunately conditions in the last 14 years of jihad in Afghanistan have provided an opportunity for this to various nations. In accordance with their economic and political needs, they have selected individuals who will protect their interests in the future of the government of Afghanistan, but this is absolutely intolerable to the Afghan nation. As the past has shown, the nation of Afghanistan is antiforeigner.

[Correspondent] What is the position of the Government of Afghanistan concerning the repression of the Muslims of the Republic of Tajikistan, and is this country ready to join Iran in rushing to the aid of the Muslims of that area?

[Afzali] The foreign policy of the government of Afghanistan is based on the Islamic principle: "Those who are with him are strong against unbelievers (but compassionate) amongst each other." [Koranic verse]. This country considers it a duty to help Muslim brothers in other countries. We have announced many times that we will not permit internal conditions in newly independent nations to be disrupted on the pretext of fighting fundamentalism, and we have said this at the international conference we recently held.

[Correspondent] What will be the nature of the cultural cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan in the future, as well as throughout the continent and with the newly independent nations such as Tajikistan?

[Afzali] Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and others are all considered members of the Islamic nation, although during the 70 years of communist government in the former Soviet Union some parts of this nation were scattered. However, through the power and grace of God the Islamic revolution of Iran was able to hasten and seal the collapse of the atheist communist government, and this Central Asia Scientific and Educational Congress confirms this claim. It is also clear that the struggle of the Muslims of Afghanistan is one of the potent factors in the collapse of the former Soviet Union. With regard to cultural cooperation, we believe that there is a common culture in the vast area from Mesopotamia to Causcasus, and a cultural revolution based on Islam and Islamic thinking can come about. Islamic Iran is the standard bearer of this movement, and we hope it will be able to revive the old cultural relationship between Balkh, Bokhara, Samarqand, Ghazaneh, Harat, Nishabur, and so on.

[Correspondent] Reports have been published recently about the cultural invasion in Afghanistan. What is the government's program for dealing with this invasion?

[Afzali] Since its victory, the Islamic Government of Afghanistan has taken effective steps in the fight against corruption. For example, it has closed factories producing wine. Planning has also been done with regard to the veil so that a suitable model will be presented via radio and television. Fortunately, the people are also fanatical and they are sensitive about the use and circulation of vulgar films and videos. In general it can be said that currently there is no danger facing us from that direction.

[Correspondent] The Western nations, and especially America, are opposed to Muslims coming to power in the area. For example they opposed the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, and even indirectly encouraged the army to stage a coup d'etat if the Muslims were victorious. Are there such plots with regard to Afghanistan?

[Afzali] It is clear that the imperialists never stop plotting. In Afghanistan also the Westerners certainly are not happy about the formation of an independent and Islamic government, and they are not standing idly by. First of all, they made the utmost use of the Afghan nation's struggle to overthrow communism. Second, they are trying to sow discord among Muslims and fan the flames of domestic war and they are also fighting the Islamic awakening. Third, they have made plans to disarm of the people and the Government of Afghanistan, which is the king's highway to the five newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union, thereby weakening this government. They even wanted to station military forces in this country (something they did in Iraq and Kuwait on the pretext of establishing security in the Persian Gulf), ignoring the fact that the people of Afghanistan are completely aware. All the advanced weapons the Russians gave the former government to put down the Muslims will be used by the people and the Islamic government against the aggressors. Unlike communism, Islam is not so baseless and weak that it will disappear. The Muslims may be defeated in some times and places, but Islam is invincible.

[Correspondent] With regard to the Central Asia Educational Congress, which was held in Tehran with UNESCO's cooperation, there were several people in the Afghan delegation. What is your assessment before and after the congress and its taking place in Iran?

[Afzali] Two people from Afghanistan took part in this congress, which was originally to have been held in Shiraz. The congress had many strengths, and of course it was not without faults, which were verbally mentioned to the officials in charge. In general, we were quite hopeful with regard to the congress. Of course I came to Iran not long ago both to take part in the antinarcotics crusade seminar and also to discuss ways to get Afghan emigrants to return to their country, and this was actually my second trip.

[Correspondent] If possible, could you say more about the strengths of the congress?

[Afzali] One strength of the congress was that for the first time the five newly independent Central Asian republics participated independently after 70 years of communist rule. Another is that the representatives of the Russian Government were assured that these republics are no longer willing to be dominated by that country intellectually and culturally, so that sometimes when Russia wanted to take a position representing the former Soviet Union it faced the clear opposition of those republics. With particular regard to reconstruction and rewriting the history of the area, the representative of the Government of Afghanistan announced that this is the clear right of the countries of the region, and there should no longer be any interference in it. Another positive point was complete harmony and agreement among the participants in pursuing cultural and religious exchanges between the nations of the region. With regard to the weak points, one was that it would have been better if a group visit to the pure grave of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) had been arranged, and also the prayer at the beginning of the day should have been conducted as a congregation.

[Correspondent] In conclusion, is there anything else you would like to say?

[Afzali] Concerning current conditions in Afghanistan, our situation resembles the situation early in the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, where various plots took shape here and there in the country, and praise God you successfully thwarted them. This situation is also like that in Afghanistan and in every way we need the cooperation of other countries, especially in cultural matters.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Pakistan

DPRK Officials Discuss Nuclear, Legislative Issues

BK3101151693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] A five-member parliamentary delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea called on the Senate chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, in Islamabad today. The delegation is led by the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of DRPK, Mr. Yang Hyong-sop. During the meeting, Mr. Wasim Sajjad said Pakistan believes in peaceful use of nuclear energy and firmly supports nuclear nonproliferation. He said Pakistan has called for a NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] meeting of South Asian countries, but it feels that the objective of NPT can only be achieved when all countries in South Asia, including India, sign the treaty. The Senate chairman stressed the need for resolving the Kashmir issue peacefully in accordance with UN resolutions. He hoped DPRK would use its influence with India in resolving the issue and ask Delhi to refrain from massive human rights violations in the occupied valley.

Mr. Yang Hyong-sop endorsed the views of the Senate chairman for adopting a regional approach on nuclear nonproliferation and for resolving the Kashmir issue peacefully by granting the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir. He said there existed a great scope for enlarging areas of cooperation between Pakistan and the DPRK in all fields.

The DPRK delegation also called on the speaker of National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan. The speaker briefed the delegation on the working of the National Assembly and the role of opposition in parliament. The function of various working groups were also highlighted. Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan underlined the need for people-to-people contact with various nations through their parliamentary representatives.

Senate Chairman Urges U.S. To Review Pressler Amendment

BK0102040193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has urged the new U.S. Administration to review the Pressler Amendment which has failed in checking nuclear weapons proliferation in South Asia. In an interview in Islamabad, he said in spite of this amendment India has not only manufactured nuclear bombs, but is also busy developing missile systems which will be able to hit the United States as well by the year 2000. Wasim Sajjad regretted that the international community has not displayed the same enthusiam to force implementation of United Nations resolutions on the plight of people in Kashmir and Palestine as it did in the case of Iraq. He said this attitude has eroded the creditability of the United Nations and major powers.

President Expresses Concern Over Afghan Crisis

BK2801142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has expressed his deep concern over the escalation of armed clashes and the deepening political crisis in Afghanistan. The president has called upon the Afghan Government to seek a resolution of the current problem through dialogue with all those who had fought together for the country's liberation so that it could lead to the formation of a broad-based government. He was talking to the special envoy of the Afghan president, (Seyyed Norollah Emad), who called on him in Islamabad today to convey a message from President Rabbani.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the unity of the Afghan millat [nation] and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan. He said Pakistan stood for harmony, peace, and conciliation in Afghanistan. He underlined the need for a broad-based government representing the will of the people, which could help wage the much-needed second jihad in Afghanistan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan welcomed the recent proposal of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia inviting the Afghan leaders for a political dialogue to seek a peaceful resolution of their differences and urged the Afghan people to take advantage of this initiative to sort out their present problems.

Minister—No Defense Budget Cuts in Next Fiscal Year

BK2901102193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 29 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Minister for Defence Production Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani Thursday said the Federal Government had no intention to cut the defence budget in the next fiscal year.

Talking to journalists after a reception at a local hotel he denied rumours that there was external pressure on Pakistan to curtail the defence budget. To a question he said even if there was any external pressure, the government would never succumb to any such pressure.

He maintained that the government would consider the interests of the nation and country before taking any decision.

When asked he said the government was deliberating on technical aspects of the tanks being purchased from Poland. However, he said the final decision would be taken in view of the recommendations of the Armed Forces.

In reply to a question he said that he supported the moves towards the Government-Opposition patch up which was an encouraging gesture for the promotion of democracy and political system in the country.

He said an American delegation would soon be visiting Pakistan to take up the matter of frigates with their Pakistani counterparts.

On the question of stranded Pakistanis the Defence Production Minsiter denied a news item that he had suggested to the President to stop the influx of stranded Pakistanis back home.